



# OVERBROOK SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND

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## Braille Signage Initiative

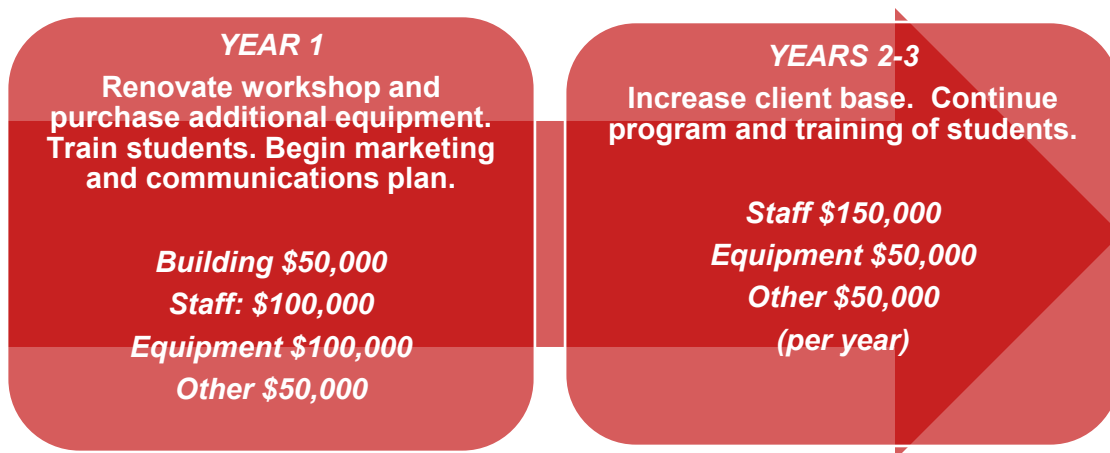
### Need and Impact

The Braille Signage Initiative will create a new commercial enterprise that will add to the school's existing *life readiness programming* – providing students with practical working skills that have great potential to transfer over to their field of choice.

Initiatives like this one are critical because, according to the National Federation of the Blind, more than 70% of visually impaired adults of working age today are not employed full-time. Beyond the job-preparedness skills that this initiative will provide (marketing, product designs, sales, inventory control, management of receivables and payables), it will also enable students to play a key role in educating the public about the abilities of people with visual impairment. In addition, it will give OSB students the opportunity to “give back” by participating in an activity that will make the world more accessible to others with visual impairments.

### The Initiative

The Braille Signage Initiative adds a vital dimension to OSB's School to Work and employment-oriented programs where students obtain skills and firsthand training that prepare them for the competitive workplace. This enterprise will develop ADA-compliant Braille signage, while providing students with a variety of skills and entrepreneurial and business management experiences. Notably, OSB has updated the design software to create signage with the new, more modern Braille code that is becoming the new standard. With the assistance of a sign company, OSB is currently in a prototype phase. OSB has invested in initial materials, hired a project manager who is skilled with the required equipment and is making Braille signage for the school. **When fully operational this business initiative will market Braille signage to schools, universities, hospitals, and businesses.**



**Funding Requirement: \$800,000** for the three-year timeline.