



Student Safety, Access and Technology Initiative

Need and Impact

Since its inception in 1832, Overbrook School for the Blind (OSB) has been internationally recognized as a catalyst for innovative, high-quality education for children with visual impairments. Recognizing the unique potential in **every** child, OSB's expert faculty and staff provide a well-rounded experience, personalized to each student's needs, abilities, and goals.

OSB's student body is increasingly composed of children with visual impairments together with additional complex disabilities. OSB takes very seriously its duty to care for and educate its students and recognizes that now is the time to grow its capacity, ensuring the School continues to meet the evolving needs of students, their families, and beyond.

While the OSB campus and buildings are historically and architecturally significant, the facilities pose challenges to students, in particular the sizable and growing percentage who are living with limited mobility. OSB's facilities have evolved to provide a workable network of accessible routes. However, there are several locations that make wheelchair use challenging. Other locations, especially in the Main Building, are difficult or impossible to access for non-ambulatory visitors. These conditions present issues related to internal circulation, egress, and access to restrooms/changing rooms.

Similarly, OSB classrooms require adaptations to meet the needs of changing students and student staff ratios. Outdated technologies need to be updated, enabling OSB to better meet its educational mission.

Universal Design for Safety

OSB students are resilient yet vulnerable, considering many have additional disabilities. It is crucial that students navigate the OSB campus safely under all circumstances. Campus improvements will serve as a model for maximizing safety for **all** students in **all** situations. We owe that to our children.

Universal Design for Learning

Meeting multiple, complex physical, educational, and other needs on an on-gong basis requires a highly flexible environment that can facilitate and support a variety of teaching and learning interactions and experiences. Investments in classroom adaptability and advanced technology will enhance learning and the overall experience for students. OSB innovations will be adopted and adapted for other schools nationally and abroad.

Funding Requirement: \$15,900,000