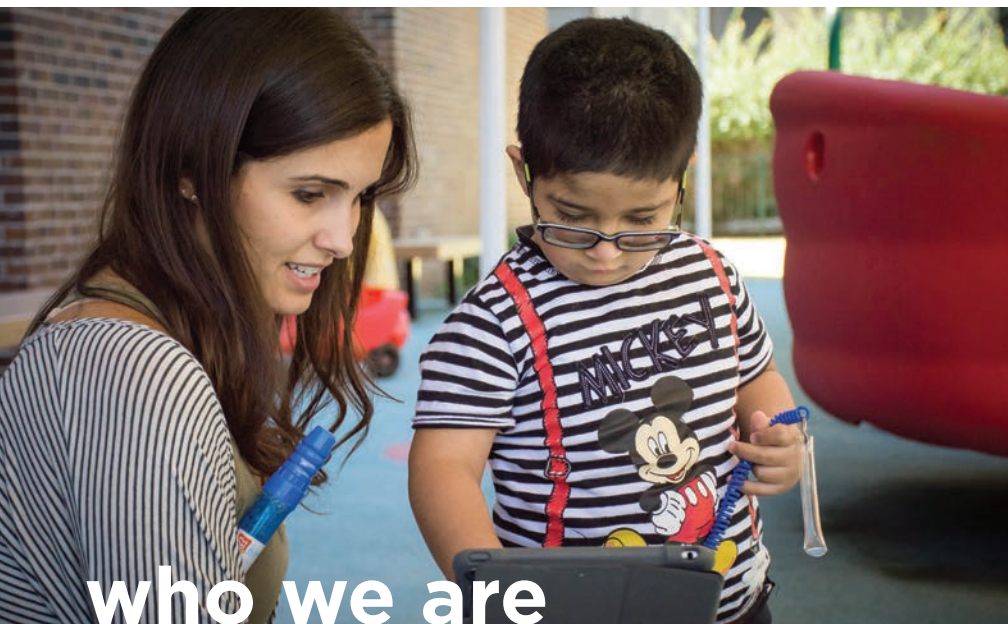




**OVERBROOK**  
SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND



**ELEVATING AND ENRICHING THE LIVES OF STUDENTS  
WHO ARE VISUALLY IMPAIRED SINCE 1832**



## who we are

Overbrook School for the Blind offers a range of educational programs designed to provide comprehensive support to students who are visually impaired. Since our founding in 1832, Overbrook School for the Blind has developed and delivered education for people with visual impairments, so that they have the greatest opportunity to experience active and fulfilling lives.

We consider new students for admission at any time during the school year. Any child who is blind or visually impaired and is referred by his or her local school district may apply to Overbrook School for the Blind. OSB also serves children with deafblindness in all of our outreach and educational programs.

## **CUSTOMIZED LEARNING**

At OSB, we follow each student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) to *educate the whole child*. We employ an entire related services team for students in the areas of Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Speech and Language Therapy, Counseling, Orientation and Mobility, and Audiology Services. Our Faculty members are also trained to work with students who have been diagnosed with Cortical Visual Impairment.

All of the educational programs at OSB focus on the National Agenda's Expanded Core Curriculum, in which skills such as braille, orientation and mobility, communication and technology, social skills, and life skills are emphasized so that students with blindness can live as active and independent members of their communities. OSB is a national leader in the Expanded Core Curriculum.

Overbrook School for the Blind is also proud to be Middle States Accredited by the Commission on Elementary and Secondary Schools.

## **ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY**

The right tools and training can give students with blindness access to an unlimited education and a career path of their choice. Classrooms are outfitted with cutting-edge technology so that teachers can offer individual or small group instruction and blend assistive technology into daily living skills.

## **CAMPUS LIFE**

Learning continues outside of the classroom. OSB offers an array of programs including student government, music, art, and a full sports program, which includes cheerleading, wrestling, track and field, goalball, and swimming.

OSB's Residential Program is available to those students who live too far away to commute every day. Many older students live in the White Hall on-campus independent living apartments during the week, learning independence, and enjoying a variety of social and recreational activities.



# experienced & specialized staff

All of the instructors at OSB are certified Teachers of Students with Visual Impairments; experts on how visual impairment affects a child's learning and development. These teachers have specific training in the tools that can help a child learn about the world and perform everyday activities.



Many of Overbrook School for the Blind's teachers are leaders in the field of visual impairment. Our professionals are featured prominently on the Boards of the Penn-Del Chapter of the Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired, the Pennsylvania National Agenda, Board of the Deaf-Hearing Communication Centre, the National Association of Parents of Children with Visual Impairments, the Council of Schools for the Blind, the Board of the Pennsylvania Partnership on Deafblindness, and Deafblind International.



Our range of specialists includes:

- Teachers of the Visually Impaired
- Speech and Language Therapists
- Orientation and Mobility Specialists
- Occupational and Physical Therapists
- School Psychologists
- Educational Audiologists





# programs

Overbrook School for the Blind is a national leader of the Expanded Core Curriculum (ECC), a set of disability-specific skills which students with visual impairments need to learn in order to lead full, independent lives. These skills are included in Pennsylvania's Approach to the National Agenda. All of the educational programs at Overbrook School for the Blind focus on the Expanded Core Curriculum.

The nine ECC areas include:

- Compensatory Skills such as Communications Modes
- Orientation and Mobility
- Social Interaction Skills
- Independent Living Skills
- Recreation and Leisure Skills
- Career Education
- Assistive Technology
- Sensory Efficiency Skills
- Self-Determination





# programs

## **EARLY INTERVENTION OUTREACH**

The Early Intervention Outreach Program provides specialized services to children who are visually impaired ages birth to five and their families.

We encourage these children to explore their environments through play and functional activities, and we empower their families with the knowledge and resources needed to be advocates for their children.

Birth to three services are typically provided in the home, and three to five community based services are provided in preschool or daycare settings.

## **EARLY CHILDHOOD**

The Early Childhood Program is the campus-based component of the Early Intervention Outreach Program. Designed to give children between the ages of three and five a fun and educational preschool experience, the Early Childhood Program prepares children to enter school programs that are appropriate to their abilities and needs.

## **ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL**

The Elementary Program serves students six to ten years of age. Along with academics, instruction also includes mobility, communication and technology, social skills, leisure and recreation skills, and prevocational skills. Students are challenged in a joyful and supportive way, discovering their own unique talents and potential.

Students between the ages of 11 and 14 in the Middle School Program are immersed in classroom learning, lessons in daily living skills, assistive technology, communication and more, all with a goal of functional independence. Self-awareness skills and appropriate behaviors are emphasized to make the transition into adult life easier.

## **ITINERANT SERVICES**

OSB also provides itinerant services for school age students at charter schools and school districts upon request.





# programs

## HIGH SCHOOL

College, career, and community-ready is the goal of the High School Program, which typically provides services to students 15 to 18 years of age.

For students with an Academic focus, schedules are structured to provide a traditional high school experience and to prepare the student for college, technical school or competitive employment.

Students with a Functional Academic focus attend core curriculum classes where real life situations help them become as independent as possible.

Students with a Life Skills and Experiential focus work on increasing independence through classes centered on activities of daily living, communication, and orientation and mobility.

A variety of activities are provided to help develop *the whole student*. The social challenges of students with visual impairment are addressed and support is provided to help students form relationships with others, increase social connections, and participate in more activities.

## SCHOOL TO WORK

Upon completing their high school skills requirements, students (ages 19 to 21) enter the School to Work Program to refine their skills for adult life.

Transition goals and readiness are a large part of the School to Work Program. Effective transition involves purposeful planning among the student, his or her family, and school-age services and program providers, to identify what services and supports he or she will need in the future.

## THE INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM

Since 1998, Overbrook School for the Blind has been collaborating with the Nippon Foundation to make access technology more widely available to people who are blind and visually impaired in Southeast Asia. Training, technical assistance, and material support is shared between countries to increase educational access and expand employment opportunities for low vision and blind individuals.

With support from the former John Milton Society, OSB International also works with special education schools in China.



# FAQ

**Q:** *How do I get my child into Overbrook School for the Blind?*

**A:** Admission to OSB begins at the local school level. Students are referred through their local school's Individualized Education Program process. After the school district makes a referral, OSB makes an evaluation and determines if we can provide for their educational program. Placement is subject to availability at that time.



**Q:** *How much does it cost to send a child to OSB?*

**A:** There is no cost to the families of OSB students. OSB is an approved private school for the blind. A combination of funds from the state, school district, and/or intermediate unit pays for each student's tuition at OSB.



**Q:** *How does my child get to OSB?*

**A:** The school district of a student's residency provides transportation to OSB.



**Q:** *Are there additional resources available to parents?*

**A:** Yes! Please visit:

The Overbrook School for the Blind  
**[www.obs.org](http://www.obs.org)**

American Foundation for the Blind  
**[www.afb.org](http://www.afb.org)**

Blind Babies Foundation  
**[www.blindbabies.org](http://www.blindbabies.org)**

Family Connect  
**[www.familyconnect.org](http://www.familyconnect.org)**

Pennsylvania Technical Assistance and Training Network  
**[www.pattan.net](http://www.pattan.net)**

Pennsylvania Partnership for the Deafblind  
**[www.papdb.org](http://www.papdb.org)**

National Association of Parents of Children with Visual Impairments  
**[www.lighthouseguild.org/programs-services/education/napv](http://www.lighthouseguild.org/programs-services/education/napv)**

**Q:** *Can my child live on campus at OSB?*

**A:** A residential program is open when school is in session. Students reside at their homes on weekends, major holidays, and school closings. Qualified older students may apply for admission into White Hall, our on-campus independent living apartments.

# find out more

If you are interested in learning more about Overbrook School for the Blind, our educational programs, and our rich history, please visit [www.obs.org](http://www.obs.org).

If you have questions about the admissions process at OSB, please address questions to:

**Ms. Jackie Brennan**  
Education and Professional Development Director  
Overbrook School for the Blind  
6333 Malvern Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA 19151  
Or email: [Jackie@obs.org](mailto:Jackie@obs.org)

If you represent a school district and would like to send a referral to OSB, please address them to:

**Mr. Gerald Kitzhoffer**  
Executive Director and CEO  
Overbrook School for the Blind  
6333 Malvern Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA 19151  
Or email: [GKitzhoffer@obs.org](mailto:GKitzhoffer@obs.org)

Follow Overbrook School for the Blind



We are located at 6333 Malvern Avenue, in the historic Overbrook Farms community in Philadelphia. The main entrance is the large building (Rotunda) on Malvern Avenue between 63rd and 64th Streets. The parking lot is across the street from the Rotunda, next to the Field House.





**OVERBROOK**  
SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND

6333 Malvern Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA  
19151-2597

215-877-0313  
[www.obs.org](http://www.obs.org)