New Mexico School for the Blind and Visually Impaired (NMSBVI)

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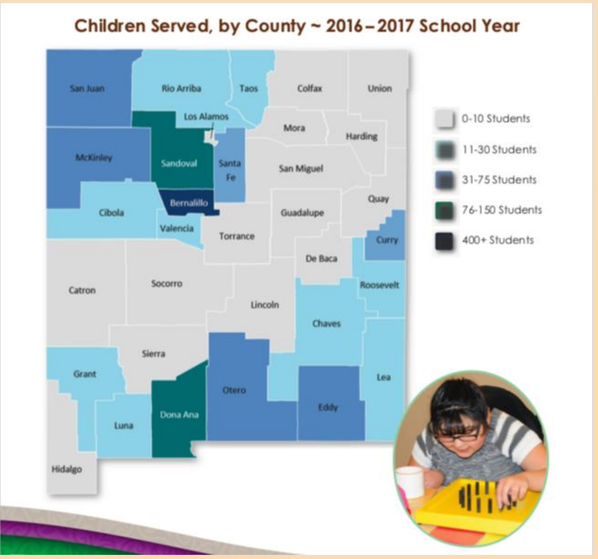
MISSION

NMSBVI, an innovative leader and unifying entity in the field of educating students birth-high school who are blind or visually impaired, will:

- identify and ensure quality education through collaborative relationships with students, families, and local/state/national partners
- to provide outstanding advocacy, training, resources, and support services
- ensuring that all students who are blind or visually impaired will become independent, productive members of their communities.

WHERE

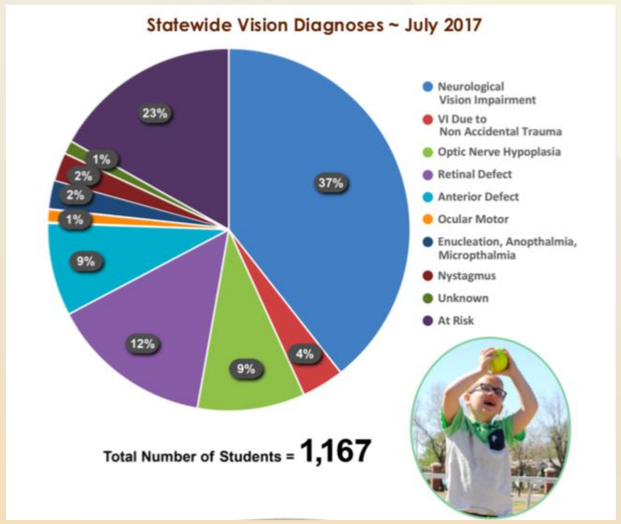
- Albuquerque: Early Childhood Program, state-wide services
- Alamogordo: residential grade school campus
- Statewide: direct services



WHO

The Students:

- Birth-to-3 (Family, Infant, Toddler [FIT]) Program
- Early Childhood Program (ages 3-6)
- Residential Grade School (ages 6-21)



The Service Team:

- Classroom Instructors
- Speech-Language Pathologists
- Occupational Therapists
- Physical Therapists
- Nurses
- Social Workers
- Audiologists
- Assistive Technologists
- A whole lot of other good folks!

Partnerships:

- Navajo Nation
- NMSU—Visual Impairment Program (VIP)
- Department of Health

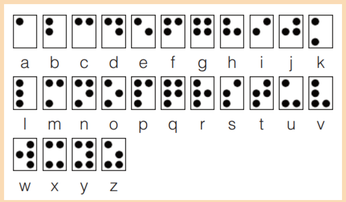
WHY

Goals:

- foster an atmosphere of creativity that results in innovative practices and programs.
- create a training system that results in sufficient numbers of specialized staff in the field of blindness and visual impairment for the state of New Mexico
- create a system to convey and receive information about blindness and visual impairment educational services, trends, research, etc. to all those involved or interested in serving students who are blind or visually impaired
- build a system of data-driven decision making that will be used collaboratively to determine goals, services and settings for educating New Mexico students with blindness or visual impairments
- develop a system that supports the successful transition of students with blindness or visual impairment and their programming across settings
- acquire community support and the resources essential to advance the success of each student with blindness or visual impairment

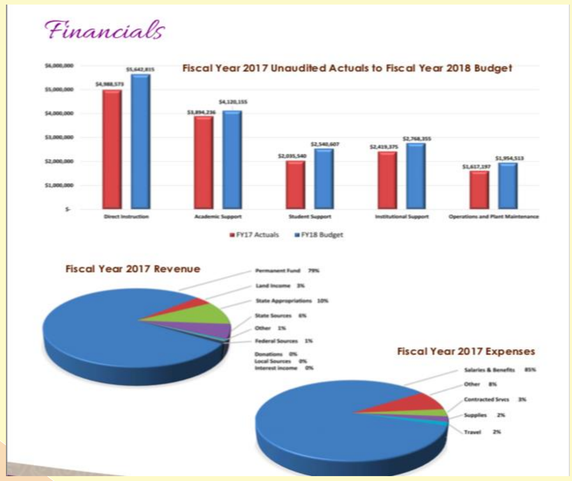
In everything:

- **Literacy**
- **Independence and safety**



HOW

- Instruction by Teachers of Visually Impaired
- Expanded Core Curriculum (ECC) Career Prep
- Statewide direct services
  - FIT Program
  - Assistive Technology
  - Instructional Resource Center (IRC)
  - Vision screening
- Referrals
  - FIT Program – Anyone
  - ECP – Family, school, doctor
  - Grade School – school, parent, doctor



Addendum

- Person or identity first language, but “blind” is most common
- Respect: ask if assistance is desired
- Languages: spoken/written English, braille, objects

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