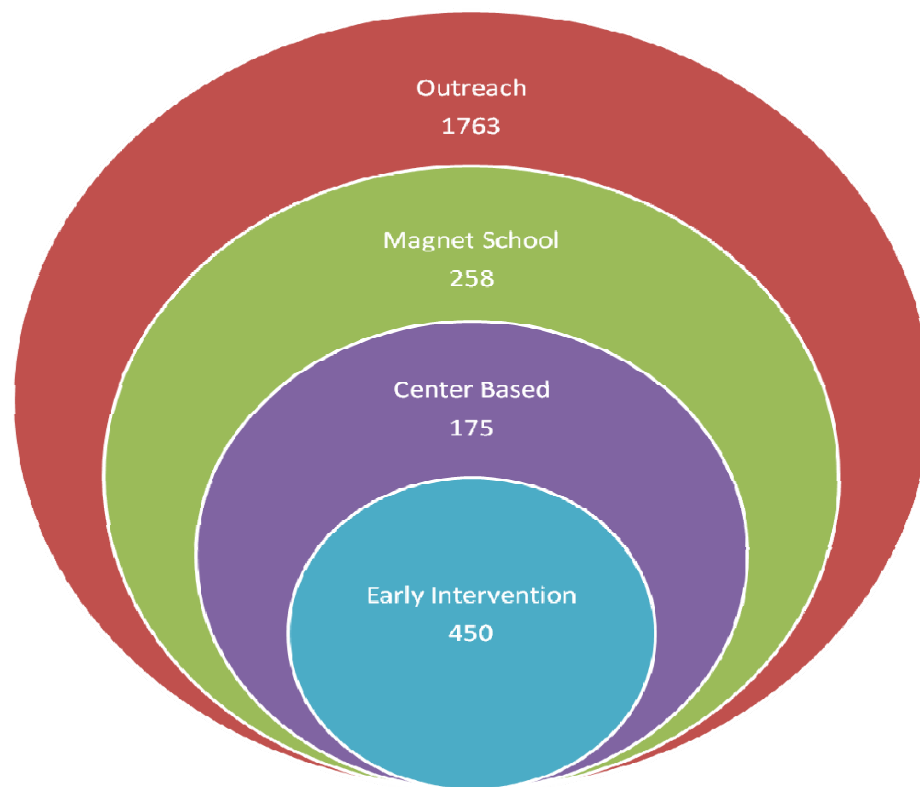


Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind (USDB) collaborates with Utah districts and charters to implement educational programs for students who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Blind, Visually Impaired, or Deafblind. Decisions about which program to attend are based on individual learning needs and the preferences of families. USDB provides services to **2204** students statewide, through four different service models designed to meet the needs of families.



Early Intervention Programs

USDB provides early intervention programs in collaboration with the Department of Health BabyWatch program. Early Intervention Specialists from the USDB Parent Infant Program provide individualized service to families of infants and toddlers who have a diagnosed vision or hearing loss. The Parent Infant Program fosters activities in the home environment using developmentally appropriate practices which include:

- Supporting parents in their efforts to understand their child's sensory loss and unique needs.
- Providing resources for parents to prepare their child for further education.
- Coaching parents with activities and instruction to enhance developmental skills.

USDB has recently reorganized the Parent Infant Program into two distinct divisions, PIP Blind and PIP Deaf. The Parent Infant Program provides services to 266 infants and toddlers who are blind or visually impaired and 184 infants and toddlers who are deaf or hard of hearing. Deaf Mentors serve 81 children statewide from birth through age 6.

Center-Based Programs

Center-Based programs are the most intensive educational programs offered by USDB. In these settings, students attend USDB exclusively and call USDB their home school. USDB provides all of the services needed by the students and USDB is the only school they attend. These programs are located in Ogden and in Salt Lake (we will be moving in December to the new school on 3300 S 1700 E). USDB serves 175 students in Center-Based settings. These students are counted by USDB in the clearinghouse reports submitted to the Utah State Office of Education. USDB provides Center-Based services to meet a variety of student needs:

- The *Jean Massieu School of the Deaf* is a bilingual ASL/English educational program. Students attending JMS are Deaf and use American Sign Language to communicate. This school provides a language rich environment where students have constant access to direct instruction and interaction with signing peers. JMS is focused on providing the Utah Core Curriculum in a visual learning environment.
- The *Utah School for the Blind Preschool* program shares a building with JMS. This program provides individualized instruction designed to prepare children for Kindergarten.
- The *USDB Residential Services* program located in Ogden provides students with intensive instruction in the development of independent living skills. This program is designed for students who require educational intervention beyond the regular school day. Residential Services is focused on providing a functional curriculum.
- The *USDB Campus* located in Ogden provides a variety of programs to meet the needs of students living in the Weber County, Box Elder County, and northern Davis county, as well as school programs for students receiving Residential Services. These programs are designed to meet individual needs, and focus on presenting the Utah Core Curriculum with accommodations or modifications as needed.

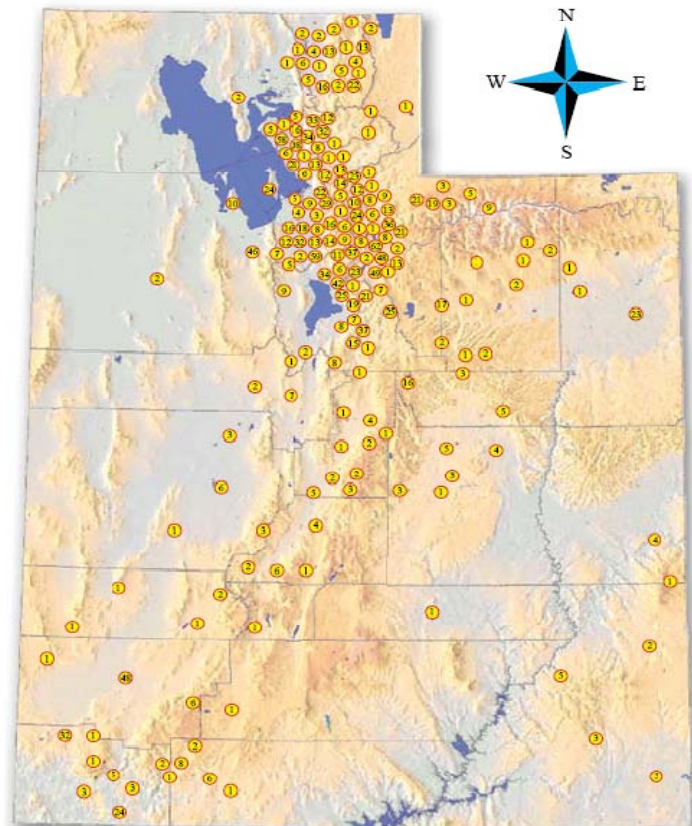
Magnet School Programs

USDB collaborates with Utah districts to provide Magnet School programs. In these settings, students from a larger geographical area are transported to central host school locations where they attend classes taught by USDB teachers. USDB students consider themselves to be students of the host school and have opportunities to participate in school-wide activities, recess, lunch, and in classrooms with non-disabled peers. USDB serves 258 students in Magnet Programs. These students are counted by USDB in the clearinghouse reports submitted to the Utah State Office of Education. These programs are located in several cooperating districts:

- Upland Terrace Elementary, Millcreek Elementary, Churchill Junior High School, and Skyline High School in the Granite District
- Orem Elementary, Scera Park Elementary, Lakeridge Junior High, and Mountain View High School in the Alpine District
- Green Acres Elementary, North Ogden Junior High School, and Weber High School in the Weber District
- Dixie High School in Washington District

Outreach Programs

USDB collaborates with Utah districts and charters to provide outreach services. Outreach programs are the least intensive level of service USDB provides. In this service model, the USDB student attends his/her regular neighborhood school. Most educational services they receive are provided by their home district. USDB provides consultation/advisement to the classroom teacher, as well as individualized direct service for students related to their sensory needs. These services are available in every district across the state. USDB provides outreach services to 1763 students throughout the state. These students are not counted by USDB in the clearinghouse reports submitted to the Utah State Office of Education; they are counted by the district or charter where they attend school.

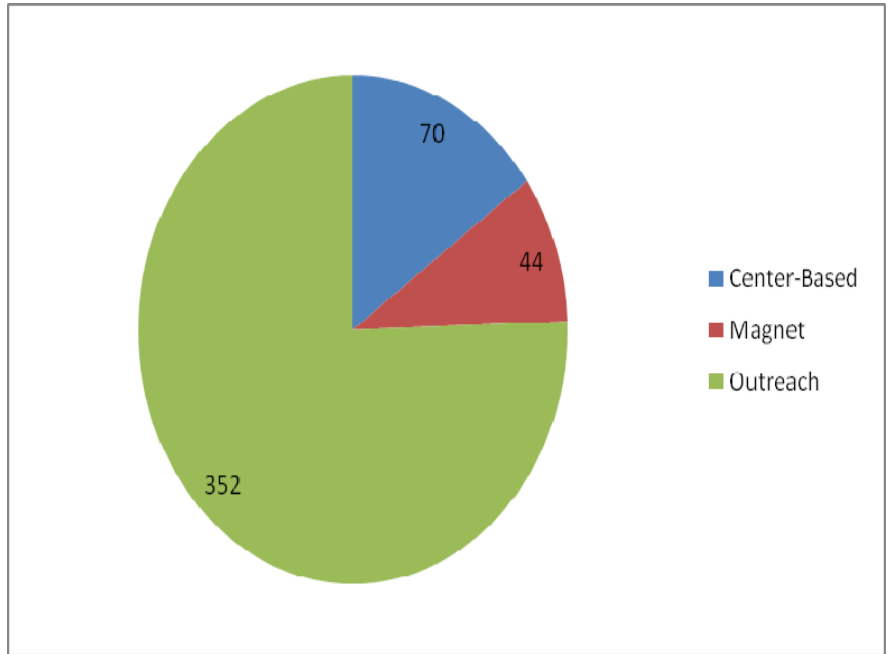


Utah School for the Blind

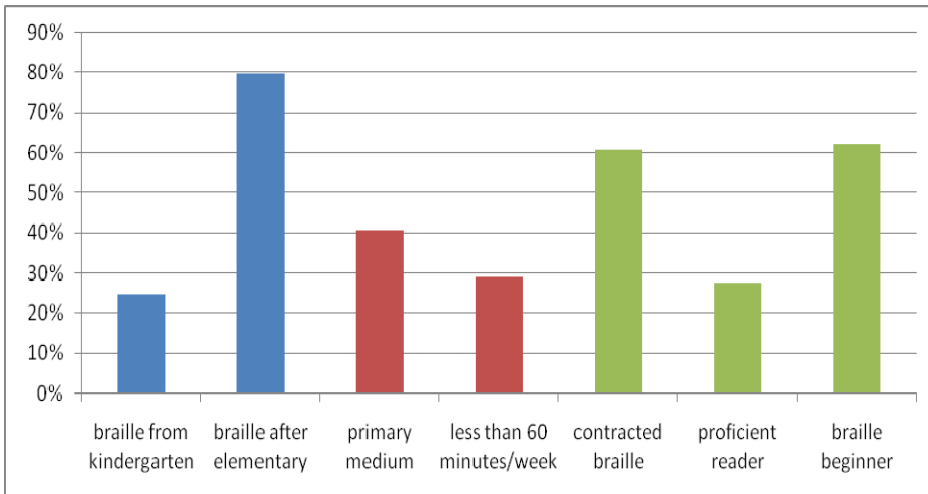
Utah School for the Blind provides instruction designed to meet the unique learning needs of students with vision loss. The type and intensity of service provided to each student is determined by the Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or 504 Plan; developed with input from parents, students, teachers, administrators, and other service providers. USB programs emphasize instruction in the Expanded Core Curriculum. The Expanded Core Curriculum is a national curriculum developed specifically to meet the educational needs of students who are blind or visually impaired. The Expanded Core Curriculum is designed to support students in accessing the Utah Core Curriculum. Areas of the Expanded Core Curriculum are:

- compensatory or functional academic skills, including communication modes
- orientation and mobility
- social interaction skills
- independent living skills
- recreation and leisure skills
- career education
- use of assistive technology
- sensory efficiency skills
- self-determination

USB provides services through two regional programs. Region 1 includes the Ogden campus Center-Based program and Outreach services in the north and east portions of the state, and serves 207 students. Region 2 includes Salt Lake area Center-Based and Magnet programs, and Outreach services in the south and west portions of the state, and serves 259 students.



The decision to use braille, large print, or magnification is individualized for each child, and is made by the IEP or 504 team. For 2009-10, USB teachers report 69 school age students who are using braille. 27% of these are considered proficient and 40% of students are using braille as their primary reading medium. 24% began learning braille before 1st grade, and 61% of students are reported as just beginning to learn braille.



USB is not satisfied with the current status for students using braille. We will become stronger advocates for children to begin learning braille earlier and with greater intensity. To support this goal, USB is collaborating with USOE to develop a Braille Curriculum that will parallel the Utah Core Curriculum in Language Arts and to adopt competency standards for professionals teaching braille.

Utah School for the Deaf

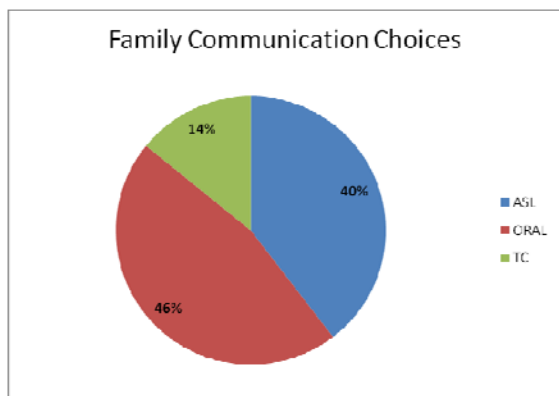
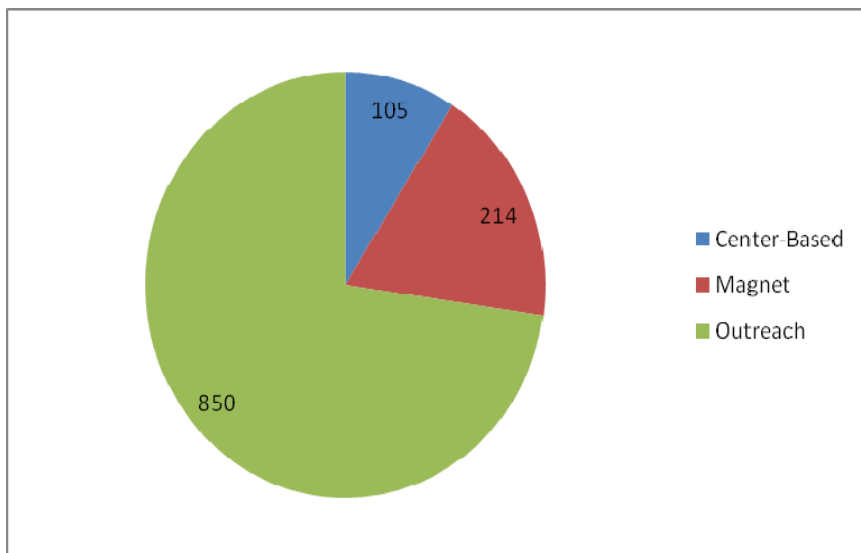
Utah School for the Deaf provides instruction designed to meet the unique learning needs of students with hearing loss. The type and intensity of service provided to each student is determined by the Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or 504 Plan; developed with input from parents, students, teachers, administrators, and other service providers. USD programs are focused on the development of language as a foundation for learning. USD provides services through four regional programs:

USD North Region serves 118 students from Davis County to the state borders.

USD Central Region serves 379 students in Salt Lake, Tooele, Summit, South Summit, and Wasatch counties.

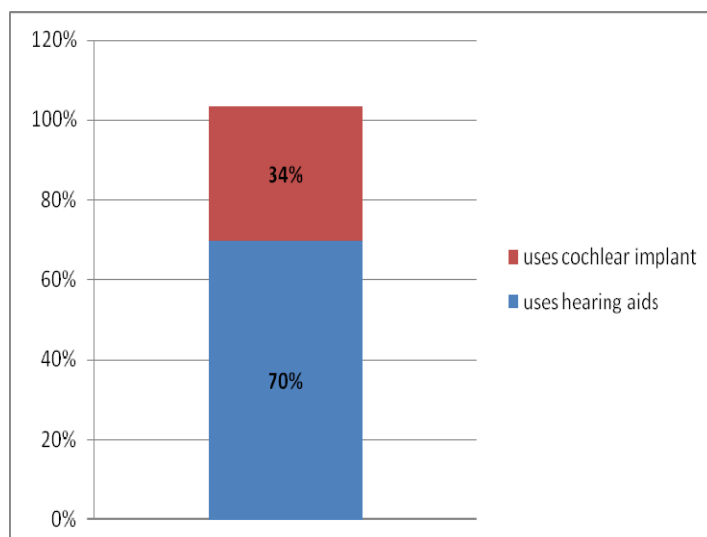
The Jean Massieu School serves 70 students at our Center-Based program in Salt Lake City.

USD South Region serves 602 students from Utah County to the southern border.



USD is the only state program in the U.S. that offers families the option of selecting an Auditory/Oral educational program or an ASL/English educational program. Auditory/Oral programs emphasize the use of auditory technology such as hearing aids and cochlear implants to teach students to listen and talk. ASL/English programs emphasize the use of American Sign Language as a first language, on which base students can acquire written English as a second language. The decision to use spoken language or sign language is made by the family, in collaboration with the IEP or 504 team.

Language development for children with hearing loss cannot happen when isolated to the school, and USD is fortunate to work with many supportive families. Over 70% of USD families are reported as being highly involved with the language development of their child. In our Listening and Spoken Language programs, all students are using cochlear implants or hearing aids. Most classrooms are equipped with sound-field systems, but these are inadequate to meet the needs of children with hearing loss. However, best practice requires that children be equipped with personal FM systems to access sound and develop spoken language.



Deafblind Services

The Deafblind Services program at USDB is part of the Utah School for the Blind, and serves students who have both a vision and hearing loss. The combination of these two disabilities requires a unique approach to education. 89% of students receiving Deafblind Services have other physical and/or cognitive impairments in addition to their sensory disabilities. Because of the complexity of interaction among sensory, physical, and cognitive disabilities, each child responds differently and requires extensive adaptations in order to meet their needs. 119 students receive services from the Deafblind program, in addition to the services provided by the School for the Blind and/or the School for the Deaf.



Utah has a very unique and comprehensive system of services for students who are deafblind and their families. A program comparable to this can be found nowhere else in the nation. Services to students are provided through regional consultants (usually monthly) and communication interveners (usually daily). Their activities are woven into the child's IEP or IFSP and meshed with the efforts of other service providers. The purposes of the USDB Deafblind Services program are:

- to increase the capacity of families, in support of their role in the development and education of their child
- to build the capacity of teachers, early interventionists, administrators, and other service providers to education and support the child
- to increase the awareness level of community members, including peers, about deafblindness
- to build the capacity and collaborate with families, service providers, programs, and agencies to assist young adults who are deafblind during the school-to-adult transition
- to collaborate with state and national projects and programs, including other deafblind projects, to increase the knowledge, skills and capacity of families, agencies, and service providers in the area of deafblindness.

Related Services



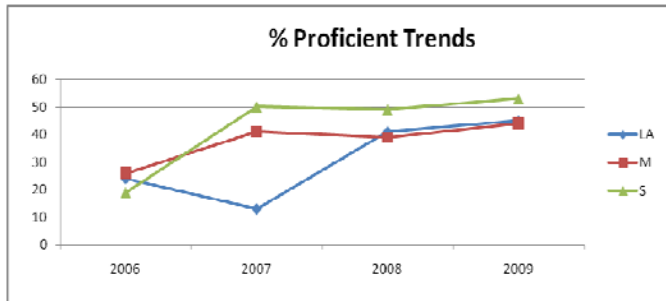
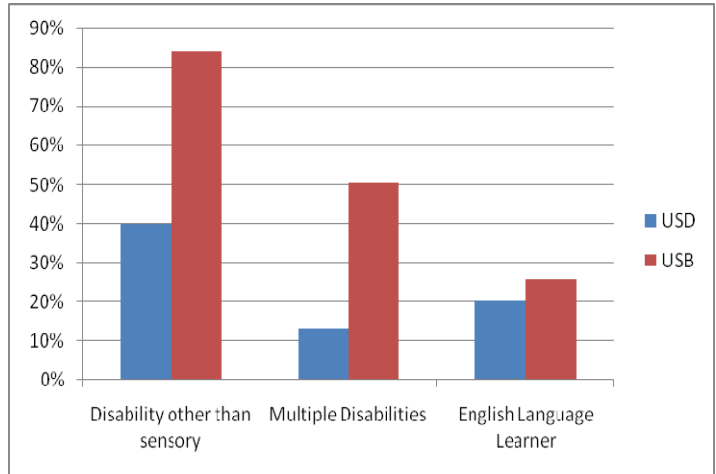
The USDB Related Services Department provides diagnostic, prescriptive evaluations and interventions for students with sensory disabilities. Related Services are provided in conjunction with USD or USB services. Consultation is available to school districts throughout the state, community agencies, and parents of children with sensory disabilities. Services are available from several support teams:

- Orientation & Mobility
- Audiology
- Speech Language Pathology
- Low Vision
- Occupational Therapy
- Physical Therapy
- Psychology
- Curriculum
- Assistive and Educational Technology

Assessment

Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind is committed to using assessment results to inform our decision making. A clear understanding of the students we serve and the effectiveness of our interventions will guide us in the development of plans for program improvement.

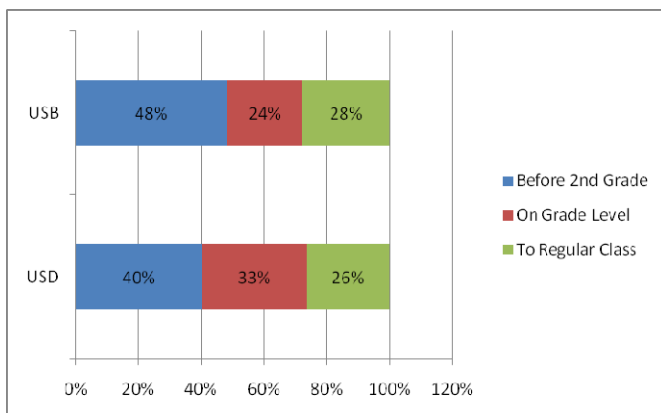
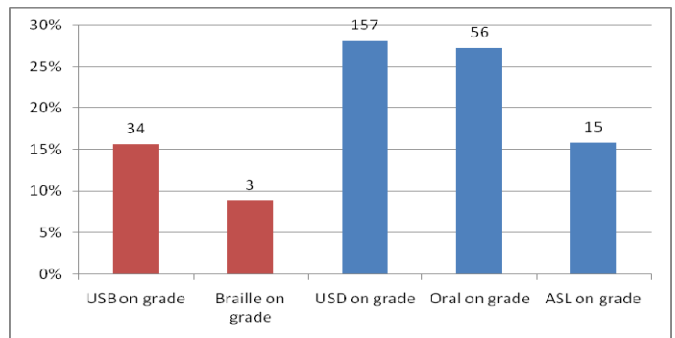
USDB serves 2204 students throughout the state. Several of these students face life challenges other than sensory loss, and this has a significant impact on educational programs. Nearly half of the students served by USDB have a disability other than their sensory loss. There is a marked difference in these additional factors between USD and USB programs. Over 80% of students in USB programs have a disability other than their vision loss; 50% of whom have severe multiple disabilities requiring an individualized functional curriculum.



USDB participates fully in the UPASS and AYP programs under the direction of the Assessment Department at USOE. USDB administers the UPASS assessments to all eligible students in our Center-Based and Magnet school programs. USDB continues to see an increase in the percentage of students who achieve proficiency on the year-end Criterion Referenced Tests.

The 44 students who participate in the UAA have significant cognitive disabilities in addition to their sensory disabilities. These students require the most intensive, specialized services that USDB has to offer. 69% of USDB students taking the UAA achieved proficiency.

In addition to the UPASS program, USDB administers individualized assessments to guide the development of Individualized Educational Programs or 504 plans. Based on these assessments, only 25% of USDB students in our Center-Based and Magnet programs are reading on grade level. When students begin reading at typical levels, they are often transferred to a less intensive service.



Students receiving USDB Outreach services are often placed in this less intensive program because they have benefitted from early USDB services.

During the past 5 years, over than 600 students have left USDB programs to receive their education in other settings.

Utah State Instructional Materials Access Center

During the 2009 legislative session, the Utah State Legislature appropriated \$498,000 for the ongoing operations of the Utah State Instructional Materials Access Center (USIMAC). USIMAC has been established to aid local education agencies in meeting the requirements of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 (IDEA) for the provision of accessible instructional materials. The USIMAC offers opportunities for students with print disabilities (including blindness and visual impairment, physical disabilities, and other diagnosed reading disabilities) to gain increased access to the general curriculum by making available instructional materials in alternate formats.

USIMAC services are available to students throughout the state of Utah by application. Once a student has been verified as eligible for accessible instructional materials, all of their textbooks are available in the format that best fits their learning need. USIMAC has completed materials for 61 students in 17 different districts and 4 charters.

USIMAC produces textbooks in a variety of formats, with staff specially trained for the requirements of each production type. In collaboration with the USDB braille department, USIMAC employs two certified braille transcribers, 2 uncertified braille transcribers, 1 uncertified braille proofreader, 3 alternate format technicians, 1 project coordinator, and 1 database manager. Those individuals who have not yet completed the certification process are working intensively on a certification plan with expectations to conclude in January or June of 2010.

Type of Material	Completed	In Progress
Braille books	124	108
Tactile Graphics	1794	ongoing
.brf files	5	3
Large Print	111	7
MP3 files	12	3
DAISY files	43	2
e-Text	12	1
Word	2	0

Educational Resource Center

The Educational Resource Center (ERC) provides information, technology, materials, instructional support, and professional learning opportunities which assist Utah children with sensory impairments in reaching their maximum potential. The ERC works to facilitate access to materials, information and training for teachers and parents of children with sensory impairments.

The ERC serves 793 patrons throughout the state of Utah. Accounts are available to all USDB employees and students, to teachers of students with sensory disabilities working in Utah districts and charter schools, to university students, and to parents. The total ERC collection contains 94,161 items, and has an estimated value of over \$6 million. During the 2008-09 school year, the ERC conducted over 80,000 transactions with materials checked in and out for student use. In addition to the physical materials that can be found in the ERC, we have added 65 eBooks to the collection this year, which are available for download.

In addition to providing materials, the ERC responded to over 1,500 individual requests for support from USDB teachers specifically related to accessing the Utah Core Curriculum. The ERC disseminated information for teachers to access over 50 different professional development opportunities offered by districts, charter schools, the Utah State Office of Education, and the Utah Personnel Development Center. We coordinated over 800 hours of training related to successful implementation of the Utah Core Curriculum or the Expanded Core Curriculum.

New Directions

USDB is moving into a new era of urgency and intensity with our programs and services. We can no longer afford to sit by waiting for action, for funding, for support, for leadership, and for cooperation. Beginning with the 2009-10 school year, USDB has identified four major areas for program improvement within each school.

Agency Goal: Focus all resources where we can have the most impact.

USB

Early Braille Literacy

Provide Quality Accessible Materials

Expanded Core Curriculum

Establish Low Vision Clinic

USD

Emphasize Early Intervention

Provide Differentiated Instruction

Establish Collaborative Partnerships

Increase Technology Access

USDB appreciates the strong support we have received from Utah districts and charters, parents, the Utah State Office of Education, the State Board of Education, and the Utah State Legislature. We are moving forward to implement the changes detailed in HB296 and in R277-800. This coming year will be a time of change as we reorganize our programs to best meet the unique needs of students with sensory disabilities. We are ready to host visitors who want to observe our programs and services, and to meet with any interested parties to clarify our role and function within the state.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven W. Noyce, Superintendent
Jennifer Johnson Howell, Associate Superintendent of the Deaf
Melanie S. Austin, Associate Superintendent of the Blind