



Iowa Department for the Blind

Services for Youth and Families

Below is an overview of the services we have available. If you don't know what your child might need, give us a call or send us an email and we would be happy to talk with you about how we can help!

Services for PreK–12 Students from the Library

- Braille Babies provides children ages 0–4 and their parents a multi-sensory approach to reading readiness and includes free books and activities.
- Books for Kids provides kids daily access to books throughout the year.
- Educational materials in braille, electronic text, large print, or audio: Under a grant from the Iowa Department of Education, our library produces textbooks, tactile graphics, and educational materials for PreK–12 students across the state.

Fun for the Whole Family from the Library

- [Hooked on Books](#): For ages 4 – 18 years. This program brings STEM and STORIES directly to your home free of charge. Sign up to receive a monthly box that will contain: activities, recipes, book suggestions and more.
- [Makerspace Mondays](#): This virtual program is designed to get your creative juices flowing while inviting the whole family to participate. All ages are welcomed! Our first night we created an Air Dry Clay Leaf Bowl! This program is set up to meet the second Monday of each month at 6:30pm. Activity Kit provided. Sign up is required.
- [STEM & Stories Saturdays](#): This virtual story time lets you meet with guests from all over while creating a little treasure or token to keep along the way. This virtual program is offered on the third Saturday of each month at 10:00 a.m. Sign up is required.
- Check out or download braille, large print and print/braille books for all ages from the library's large collection.

Services for Parents and Family from the Library

- [Braille Bits](#) is an online program that is designed to teach braille to sighted people who have connections with braille readers.

Services for youth age 14 and older from Vocational Rehabilitation

At age 14, blind and low vision Iowans become eligible for vocational rehabilitation services through the Iowa Department for the Blind. This helps youth get the skills, self-confidence, and knowledge they need to make the transition to life after high school as seamless as possible. These services may include, but are not limited to:

- LEAP Summer Skills Training Program: A residential program where students develop social, independent living, orientation and mobility, workplace readiness, technology and braille skills while also having fun with their peers and getting the opportunity to participate in a variety of activities.
- Extended IEP and transition services through our Young Adult Transition Program (4+). For this school-year based program, students live in dorms and receive significant support from staff as they complete IEP and transition goals in areas such as, self-advocacy, orientation and mobility, access technology, literacy, independent living and personal care, money management, social skills, career exploration and other areas related to workplace readiness, to help students increase their independence, self-efficacy, and self-autonomy.
- Comprehensive adjustment to blindness skills training in our adult training center (for those aged 17+). Students live in apartments and receive intensive instruction in braille, cane travel, access technology, home management and industrial arts, as well as participate in jobs class and confidence-building activities to prepare for attending college and/or entering the workforce.
- Small group online and in person retreats and events held throughout the school year on a wide range of topics and skill areas.
- Individualized Skills Training in the home or community provided by Vocational Rehabilitation Teachers and Rehabilitation Technology Specialists.
- Access Technology. Hardware, software and training are provided based on each student's individual needs and career goal.
- Individualized Counseling on post-secondary enrollment options and career exploration.
- Individualized vocational guidance and counseling.
- Work experience and job search assistance.
- Assistance in paying for post-secondary education.

- Benefits counseling.

For More Information

To apply for vocational rehabilitation, complete our referral form: <https://blind.iowa.gov/refer> or call 515–901–8621.

To apply for library services, call 515–281–1323.

For more information, visit our blog at: <https://iowalibrary.blog/> or our Instructional Materials Center Blog: <https://idbimclibrary.blog/>

To learn more about IDB programs and services visit our website: <https://blind.iowa.gov>

Follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/IowaBlind> or visit our YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/user/IDBOnline>