

Washington State School for the Blind

2214 E. 13th Street, Vancouver, WA 98661
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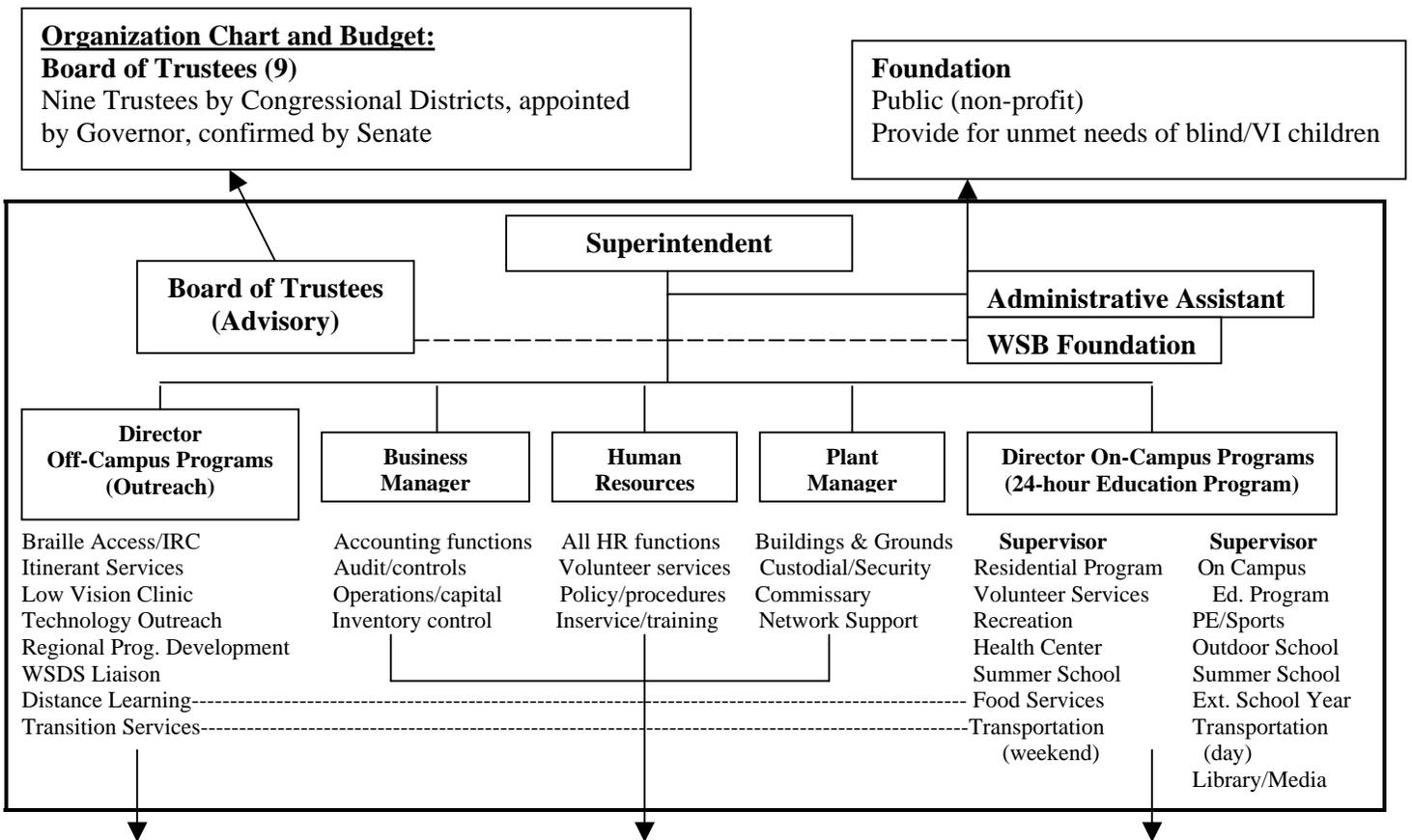
Dr. Dean O. Stenehjem, Superintendent
dean.stenehjem@wssb.wa.gov

“Providing World-Class Educational Services to the Blind and Visually Impaired both on Campus and Throughout Our State”

Agency Responsibility: (Global statements)

- **The primary purpose** of the State School for the Blind is to educate and train visually impaired and blind children throughout the state of Washington. The School is unique in the fact that it is both a public school and a state agency. (RCW 72.40 – 72.28.A.13, RCW 43.06A, PL 100-297, IDEA & PL 99-457)
- **Mission Statement:** To provide specialized quality educational services to visually impaired youth ages birth to 21 within the State of Washington.
- **Purpose:** The School serves as a statewide demonstration and resource center providing direct and indirect services to students both on campus and in the children’s local communities. Services are provided to families, educators, and others interested in assisting visually impaired youth in becoming independent and contributing citizens.
- **Training:** Provide statewide educational services and training to blind and visually impaired children, parents, and educators.
- **Facilitation:** Assist in the development of quality services on a statewide basis in an ongoing attempt to improve services for blind and visually impaired children throughout the state.
- **Braille Materials/Aids & Appliances Production and Distribution:** Produce Braille materials, source materials, and assist local districts throughout the state in assisting to meet the needs of blind and visually impaired children.

[Biennial Budget]



FTE 11.65 GSF \$ 372,504 Other \$ 667,000 (School Districts) Other \$ 171,786 (Braille Access) State/Fed \$440,000 Total \$1,651,290	FTE 18.83 GSF \$ 2,691,448 Overall Agency FTE: 82 Overall Agency: \$10,857,876 GSF: \$ 9,498,000 Other GF: \$667,000 Other: \$692,876	FTE 51.52 GSF \$6,434,048 Other 81,090 (Federal) Total \$6,515,138
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Student/Clients Served/Data:

Up to 1,400 students served per yr. Average 600 per month	University connection (partnership) for teacher training programs.
540% growth in students served since 1990	Campus utilized 12 months out of the year.
8 million pages of Braille produced since 1993	50,000 people per year use WSSB facilities
1/5 th of school districts contract with WSSB for itinerant vision services	87.5% of WSSB graduates since 1998 successful. This compares with 70% un/under employment (national data)
480+ additional vision related services provided each month to statewide community.	WSSB listed by blind consumer organizations as one of the top three schools for the blind in the country

Most Pressing Issues or Challenges:

- **Issue: Continue to meet growing demand for services.**
 - **Problems:**
 - Population of children continues to increase without comparable increases in funding.
 - Lack of trained teachers of the blind (teacher shortage) to meet growing demands. National problem that is affecting our ability to find teachers for local public school support throughout the state. We have been very successful with on-campus recruitment, but filling the void off campus has been difficult.
 - Limited services in various parts of our state, therefore inadequate services being provided to children in these locations.
 - **Key stakeholder:**
 - WSSB, local districts, parents, blind consumers, university programs, and other partnerships interested in the welfare of providing quality services to the blind.
 - **Urgency:**
 - Creative approaches such as digital/distance learning needs to be expanded immediately to avert a major crisis. Digital/distance learning will assist in meeting some of the needs of blind children in remote areas of the state and to some children in need of highly specialized training that is not available in the district. Also, will expand offerings for children on the campus of WSSB.
 - Continued expansion of partnerships needs to continue to assist in gaining more efficiencies.
 - **Status and timelines:**
 - Distance learning needs to be expanded during the 2005-2007 session to lessen the impact of shortages.
 - A partnership with teacher training programs needs to be expanded to include either the U of WA or WSU to help shore up the teacher shortage. Neither of these school's currently have a training program for the blind. This can be accomplished in conjunction with grants and the expansion of digital learning.
 - **Staff Contact:** Dr. Dean O. Stenehjem, Supt., dean.stenehjem@wssb.wa.gov 360-696-6321 ext. 130

- **Issue: Lack of valid instruments to measure student academic performance.**
 - **Problem:** Blind children throughout Washington are being given an invalid instrument to measure yearly growth (WASL). These tests, especially the math WASLs are highly invalid and based upon visual memory and/or visual items.
 - **Key stakeholders:** OSPI, contracted test developers, WSSB, blind consumers, blind students, districts, parents.
 - **Urgency:** By 2008 students will need to pass the 10th grade WASL to graduate. With the current instrument most blind children will not graduate with an academic diploma even if they are highly capable due to an invalid instrument. This is a major issue in test development and a discriminatory test administration.
 - **Status and timelines:**
 - OSPI needs to work with test developers and WSSB to develop an appropriate instrument within the next two years in order to mitigate discriminatory practices and future potential litigation.

- **Issue: Potential Litigation:** Two WSSB Teachers have filed a lawsuit stating that the state/school should be paying WSSB teachers TRI (time responsibilities & incentives) funds, similar to what Vancouver School District pays from local mil levy dollars. The state disagrees. Motion to be heard in Thurston County Court on Oct. 8, 2004.

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- **For a comprehensive packet of information contact: Dr. Dean O. Stenehjem**

Board Member Listing by Board Position

BLIND, STATE SCHOOL FOR THE; BOARD OF TRUSTEES (HS220)

Agency 351 - State School for the Blind	Senate Conf. Y	Positions: Maximum 014
Authority Governor, statute	Public Disc. N	Minimum 000
Authoriztn. RCW 72.41.020	Term Length 060	Actual 014
Rem. Auth. GC	Meetings/Yr. 06	

Pos. #	Name and Address	Status	Race	Appointed	Expires
001	Wiseman, Eric 14921 54th Avenue SE Everett, WA 98208	A	C	09/27/2004	07/01/2008
		Terms Served	01		
		Position	a member		
		Comments	Congressional District 1		

Pos. #	Name and Address	Status	Race	Appointed	Expires
002	Farley, Jerry 1819 West J Street Yakima, WA 98902	A	C	07/01/2002	07/01/2007
		Terms Served	02		
		Position	a member		
		Comments	Congressional District 4		

Pos. #	Name and Address	Status	Race	Appointed	Expires
003	Adamson, Kay 14727-180th Avenue SE Renton, WA 98059	A	C	06/13/2003	07/01/2008
		Terms Served	01		
		Position	a member		
		Comments	Congressional District 8		

Pos. #	Name and Address	Status	Race	Appointed	Expires
004	Nelson, Charles P. 5360 Dinkel Road Bellingham, WA 98226	A	C	03/29/2001	07/01/2006
		Terms Served	01		
		Position	a member		
		Comments	Congressional District 2		

Pos. #	Name and Address	Status	Race	Appointed	Expires
005	Fram, Joseph 5122 South Glenngrae Court Spokane, WA 99223-1588	A	C	07/02/2001	07/01/2006
		Terms Served	02		
		Position	a member		
		Comments	Congressional District 5		

Pos. #	Name and Address	Status	Race	Appointed	Expires
006	Perry, Sherry 79 Clear View Place Port Ludlow, WA 98365	A	C	10/07/2004	07/01/2008
		Terms Served	01		
		Position	a member		
		Comments	Congressional District 6		

Board Member Listing by Board Position

BLIND, STATE SCHOOL FOR THE; BOARD OF TRUSTEES (HS220)

Pos. #	Name and Address	Status	Race	Appointed	Expires
007	Rainey, W. Stephen 15313 SE Evergreen Highway Vancouver, WA 98683	A	C	10/07/2004	07/01/2008
		Terms Served	01		
		Position	a member		
		Comments	Congressional District 3		
Pos. #	Name and Address	Status	Race	Appointed	Expires
008	Fitts, Annabelle 4703 S. Angeline Street Seattle, WA 98118	A	C	01/27/2004	07/01/2007
		Terms Served	01		
		Position	a member		
		Comments	Congressional District 7		
Pos. #	Name and Address	Status	Race	Appointed	Expires
009	Colley, Denise 2305 Maxine Street SE Lacey, WA 98503-3451	A	C	09/08/2004	07/01/2009
		Terms Served	01		
		Position	a member		
		Comments	Congressional District 9		