

# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2023-2024

**ARKANSAS  
SCHOOL FOR  
THE BLIND &  
VISUALLY  
IMPAIRED**



***"It's All About The Kids"***





# "It's All About The Kids"

Dear ASBVI Patrons,

I am pleased to share with you our 2023-2024 Annual Report to Patrons, a reflection of our commitment to what matters most: our students. "It's All About the Kids!"—and here at the Arkansas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired (ASBVI), that statement holds true every day. Because each child's vision needs are unique, our educational and support services are equally individualized to meet those specific needs.

At ASBVI, we take pride in aligning our work with the **ASBVI PRIDE** core values:

**Professionalism, Responsibility, Integrity, Dedication, and Excellence.** These values inspire our mission and guide our programs, services, and daily interactions with students, families, and the broader community. It is our hope that as you read this report, you'll see these core values in action—in the ways we educate, advocate, and serve.

During the 2023-2024 school year, ASBVI remained committed to delivering high-quality learning and enriching experiences for every student. Looking ahead, we are excited to continue this mission in the 2024-2025 school year, with strong academic programming across core content areas. We also aim to enhance our expanded core curriculum and specialized programs to provide students with vital life experiences that support their personal and professional success. We are also excited to share our ongoing collaboration with the Arkansas School for the Deaf (ASD) as we work together to develop an enhanced program that meets the highest standards of quality for all students we serve. This partnership is designed to ensure that students who are blind and visually impaired, deaf and hard of hearing, and deafblind receive comprehensive, tailored support. Through this collaboration, we are building a stronger community that meets each child's unique needs and prepares them for success in a world that awaits their talents and contributions.

Our mission requires the continued support of our stakeholders. We are grateful for the partnership of the Governor, the State Legislature, the Department of Education, our Board of Trustees, the ASBVI Alumni Association, Friends of ASBVI, our families, and community and professional allies. This collective support makes it possible for ASBVI to help students grow into confident, independent citizens with the skills to find their unique paths in the world.

It is my honor to serve the students and families at ASBVI. Please enjoy reading this report and see why we believe so strongly that, at ASBVI, **"It's All About the Kids!"**

Sincerely yours,



Dr. Chris Barnes  
Interim Superintendent



# ASBVI General Statistics

**Enrollment: 67**

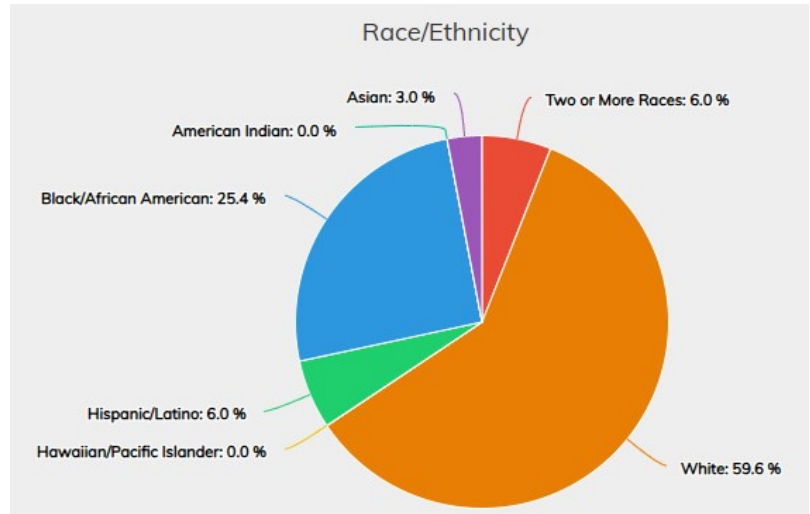
**Low Income: 43%**

**English Learners: 7%**

**Gifted & Talented: 9%**

**Special Education: 100%**

**Title 1: 88%**



## ATLAS Assessment Distribution

### ASBVI RESULTS

BASELINE ATLAS Distribution - % of all students performing at each level

	ELA (Grades 3-10)	Math (Grades 3-8, Algebra 1 & Geometry)	Science (Grades 3-8 & Biology)
LEVEL 4	5.56%	2.78%	6.25%
LEVEL 3	11.11%	8.33%	21.88%
LEVEL 2	41.67%	19.44%	28.13%
LEVEL 1	41.67%	69.44%	43.75%

#### NOTE

The 2024 ATLAS results provide a new baseline for Arkansas student performance and should **not** be compared to prior year outcomes on different assessments.

ATLAS

## ATLAS Assessment Distribution

### STATE RESULTS

BASELINE ATLAS Distribution - % of all students performing at each level

	ELA (Grades 3-10)	Math (Grades 3-8, Algebra 1 & Geometry)	Science (Grades 3-8 & Biology)
LEVEL 4	10.04%	11.54%	12.55%
LEVEL 3	23.79%	21.07%	23.16%
LEVEL 2	39.69%	31.60%	36.87%
LEVEL 1	26.20%	35.79%	27.43%

#### NOTE

The 2024 ATLAS results provide a new baseline for Arkansas student performance and should **not** be compared to prior year outcomes on different assessments.

ATLAS

# ASBVI Federal Funds Distributions

## 6501 Title I, Part A

Funding Amount to budget in eFinance:				
Beg Bal	PY Refund	Carryover	Allocation	Total
\$0.00		\$54,162.17	\$27,101.70	\$81,263.87

eFinance "Board Report"			
YTD Revenue	YTD Transfers In	YTD Transfers Out	YTD Expenditures

Remaining Funds that Expire by:		
09/30/2024	09/30/2025	Total
\$420.40	\$20,811.51	\$21,231.91

Carryover Limit as of June 8, 2024			
FY 23-24 Allocation	Transfers In	Carryover Limit %	Carryover Limit
\$27,101.70		0.15	\$4,065.26

## 6710 Federal Preschool Special Education

Funding Amount to budget in eFinance:				
Beg Bal	PY Refund	Carryover	Allocation	Total
\$0.00		\$2.80	\$3,766.94	\$3,769.74

eFinance "Board Report"			
YTD Revenue	YTD Transfers In	YTD Transfers Out	YTD Expenditures

Remaining Funds that Expire by:		
09/30/2024	09/30/2025	Total
\$2.80	\$3,766.94	\$3,769.74

Carryover Limit as of June 8, 2024			
FY 23-24 Allocation	Transfers In	Carryover Limit %	Carryover Limit
\$3,766.94			\$0.00

## 6786 Title IV

Funding Amount to budget in eFinance:				
Beg Bal	PY Refund	Carryover	Allocation	Total
\$0.00		\$3,829.69	\$10,000.00	\$13,829.69

eFinance "Board Report"			
YTD Revenue	YTD Transfers In	YTD Transfers Out	YTD Expenditures

Remaining Funds that Expire by:		
09/30/2024	09/30/2025	Total
\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

Carryover Limit as of June 8, 2024			
FY 23-24 Allocation	Transfers In	Carryover Limit %	Carryover Limit
\$10,000.00			\$0.00

## 6702 Title VI-B Special Education School Age

Funding Amount to budget in eFinance:				
Beg Bal	PY Refund	Carryover	Allocation	Total
\$0.00		\$16.90	\$69,371.27	\$69,388.17

eFinance "Board Report"			
YTD Revenue	YTD Transfers In	YTD Transfers Out	YTD Expenditures

Remaining Funds that Expire by:		
09/30/2024	09/30/2025	Total
\$544.88	\$68,843.29	\$69,388.17

Carryover Limit as of June 8, 2024			
FY 23-24 Allocation	Transfers In	Carryover Limit %	Carryover Limit
\$69,371.27			\$0.00

## 6756 Title II-A

Funding Amount to budget in eFinance:				
Beg Bal	PY Refund	Carryover	Allocation	Total
\$0.00		\$0.00	\$3,371.15	\$3,371.15

eFinance "Board Report"			
YTD Revenue	YTD Transfers In	YTD Transfers Out	YTD Expenditures

Remaining Funds that Expire by:		
09/30/2024	09/30/2025	Total
\$119.46	\$14.28	\$133.74

Carryover Limit as of June 8, 2024			
FY 23-24 Allocation	Transfers In	Carryover Limit %	Carryover Limit
\$3,371.15			\$0.00

## 6795 ARP ESSER

Funding Amount to budget in eFinance:				
Beg Bal	PY Refund	Carryover	Allocation	Total
\$0.00		\$219,171.20	\$0.00	\$219,171.20

eFinance "Board Report"			
YTD Revenue	YTD Transfers In	YTD Transfers Out	YTD Expenditures

Remaining Funds that Expire by:		
09/30/2024	09/30/2025	Total
\$138,058.91		\$138,058.91

Carryover Limit as of June 8, 2024			
FY 23-24 Allocation	Transfers In	Carryover Limit %	Carryover Limit
\$0.00			\$0.00

2024 Meals

Grant Period: October 1, 2023 - September 30, 2024

FAIN #: 246AR321N1199

349955	Breakfast	Lunch	Performance	Snack
CFDA 10.553		10.555	10.555	10.555
Source of Fund Code 8645		8640	8640	8655
Revenue Code 45520		45510	45510	45540
Previous Award 0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00
Current Award 9,247.25		19,758.27	540.48	0.00
Cumulative Total 9,247.25		19,758.27	540.48	0.00

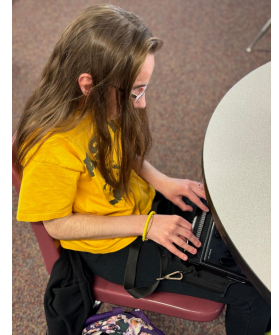
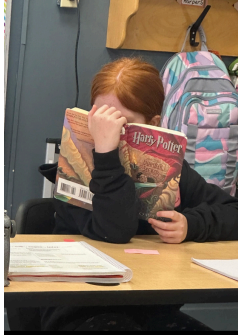
Child  
Nutrition  
Funds



# ASBVI District Improvement Plan

The Arkansas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired (ASBVI) has set focused goals for both elementary and secondary schools to enhance student learning and engagement. Core academic remediation involves early and continuous student assessment using tools like NWEA to identify learning needs, supported by ARP funds for tutoring. ASBVI emphasizes the Expanded Core Curriculum (ECC), providing resources for professional development in skills critical to independence for blind and visually impaired students. Additionally, improving student attendance is a priority, with funding allocated for incentives and parent communication.

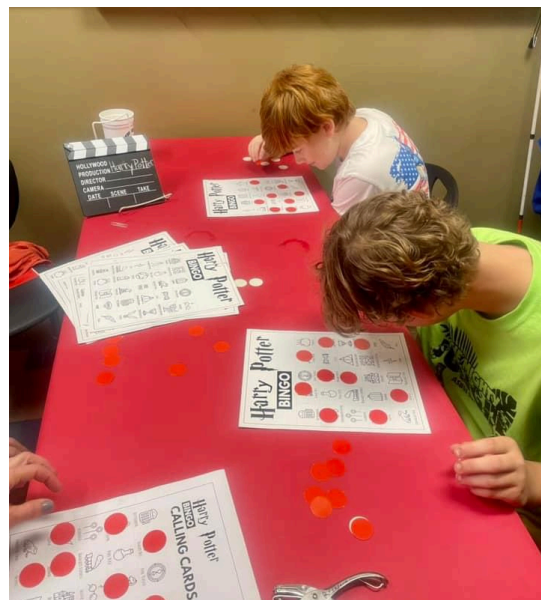
The elementary school aims to strengthen reading and writing skills through resources for English Language Arts (ELA), supporting the RISE initiative for Science of Reading, and offering necessary instructional tools. Emphasizing student accountability and responsibility, ASBVI invests in social-emotional learning (SEL) and integrates the G.U.I.D.E for Life principles to foster growth, understanding, interaction, decision-making, and empathy among students. Counseling and mental health services receive support to further these goals.



ASBVI's Secondary School emphasizes teacher professional development through growth plans, PLCs, and the High Reliability School model, focusing on the Science of Reading and literacy outcomes. Teachers receive training for supporting blind and visually impaired students on and off campus. The school prioritizes a strong, accessible curriculum, allocating Title funds for high-quality instructional materials, including resources for braille and large print. To prepare students for post-secondary paths, ASBVI develops individual IEP transition plans and partners with the Division of Services for the Blind, World Services for the Blind, and other organizations. The school actively addresses learning loss through early and ongoing assessments, utilizing tools like NWEA and ARP funds to support tutoring. Additionally, ASBVI promotes consistent student attendance by investing in attendance incentives and maintaining communication with parents and referring districts.



# Family Engagement Activities



ASBVI fosters an inclusive community by hosting family engagement events that showcase the educational progress of students and support families. Events like the Literacy Fair, STEM Night, and Computer Science Night provide students with opportunities to display their achievements and skills, promoting a sense of pride. ASBVI also offers outreach and training sessions, such as Braille Bootcamps and Cookies with Santa for the Birth-to-3 program, which equip families with tools and knowledge to support their blind and visually impaired children. These initiatives strengthen the bond between the school and families and empower students by creating an environment of collaboration.



# ASBVI Outreach Services

ASBVI provides a range of services to support blind and visually impaired students both on campus and in public schools. Key services include:

- **Low Vision Clinic**: Offers free low vision services and consultations year-round. Dr. Kennan Doan, OD, is the only low-vision specialist in Arkansas, and he provides these specialized services to ASBVI students.
- **Birth to 3 Statewide Program**: Supports families of blind or visually impaired babies across the state, serving 80-90 families annually in this early intervention initiative.
- **Annual Competitions**: The Regional Braille Challenge and Cane Quest offer students opportunities to demonstrate braille literacy and orientation/mobility skills, enriching campus life for public school students.
- **State Braille and Large Print Program**: Distributes braille and large print textbooks to ASBVI and public school students, managing orders and storage through state funding.



Dr. Kennan Doan, OD



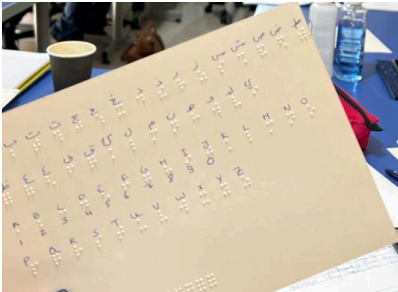


# Braille-Adaptive Technology-Orientation & Mobility

The Arkansas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired (ASBVI) provides robust support in Braille literacy, Adaptive Technology (AT), and Orientation and Mobility (O&M) to empower students with visual impairments. Braille instruction is foundational at ASBVI, equipping students with essential reading and writing skills to access educational materials and develop independence. In addition to Braille, ASBVI prioritizes assistive technology to bridge gaps in communication, learning, and daily tasks. Through a partnership with American Printing House, ASBVI obtained a grant for two students to receive the new Monarch device, a revolutionary dynamic tactile display with ten lines of 32-cell refreshable Braille, offering a total of 3,840 pins. This device, which has the potential to transform how blind students access print material, enables tactile interaction with multi-line content in ways previously unavailable.

Students also use screen readers, magnification devices, and other tools tailored to their specific needs. ASBVI's Orientation and Mobility (O&M) training provides students with safe, effective travel skills, partnering with the University of Arkansas at Little Rock's O&M Program to offer specialized training. To maintain excellence in instruction, ASBVI expects teachers to earn certification as Teachers of the Visually Impaired (TVI) by completing higher education coursework through Stephen F. Austin University in Texas.

This emphasis on professional development ensures students receive expert, individualized support.



## Instructional Resource Center (IRC)

The Instructional Resource Center (IRC) plays a critical role in supporting Arkansas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired (ASBVI) and public school students statewide. It sources and purchases essential large print and Braille textbooks, providing resources to around 75 ASBVI students and 35 public school students. In 2023-2024 alone, the IRC ordered over 300 specialized textbooks. The IRC also administers the Federal Quota Fund Program in collaboration with ASBVI's Low Vision Clinic, providing funding and resources for about 100 eligible students. In its commitment to student employability, the IRC runs a work-study program, currently engaging five students, to help build essential job skills. During the summer, the IRC supervises additional internships to expand vocational learning. The IRC also oversees the Wrightsville Braille Project at Wrightsville Men's State Prison, where certified transcribers and trainees produce Braille and large print books, delivering nearly 23,000 pages in 2023-2024 alone. This program is a vital asset in ensuring students have access to quality Braille resources.

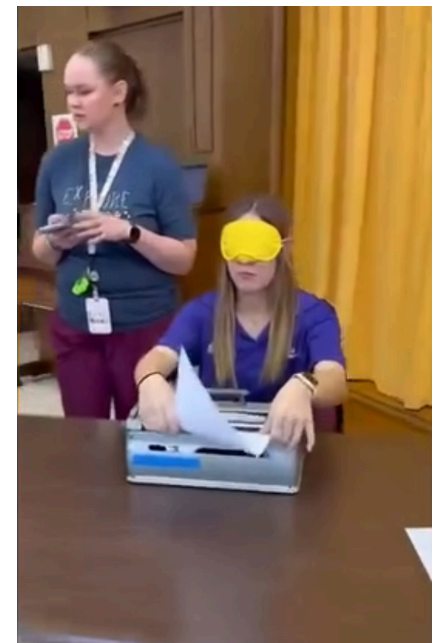
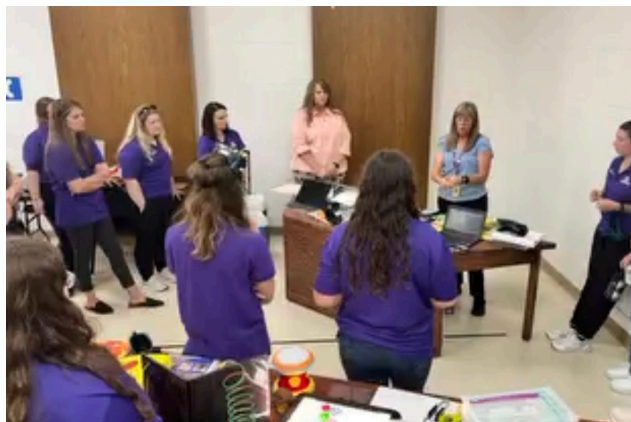
# ASBVI Ancillary Services

Ancillary services at ASBVI include a variety of essential functions that enhance the overall student experience, many of which are shared with Arkansas School for the Deaf (ASD). **Health Services** (shared) offer daily and evening healthcare for students. **Child Nutrition Services** provides three meals a day to meet the nutritional needs of students. **Custodial and Maintenance Services** (shared) ensure the upkeep of buildings and grounds. **Transportation Services** (shared) are available for students traveling home on weekends, as well as for daily activities and other school-related needs. **Business and Human Resource Services** support fiscal management and personnel functions for both schools. The **IT/Technology Department** handles networking, internet, and email services for staff and students, along with providing support for communication devices, printers, and computers. **Occupational Therapy (OT), Physical Therapy (PT), and Speech Services** are contracted, with an on-campus Speech Pathologist available for student needs. The school employs a counselor who provides counseling and mental health support. **Residential Services** offer housing for students who live too far from school to commute daily, as well as for local students with specific needs. This program creates a home-like atmosphere while fostering the development of daily living and independent skills. Students in the residential program also have opportunities for recreational activities. The school operated three dormitories to accommodate students. These services collectively support the holistic development and well-being of students at ASBVI.



# UCA Occupational Therapy Partnership

**ASBVI has developed a relationship with UCA Occupational Therapy Program to provide pre-professional occupational therapy practitioners with in-field training and awareness on approaches to therapies that benefit blind and visually impaired individuals.**



# ASBVI Summer Enrichment

ASBVI provided opportunities for continued enrichment and growth during the summer break. The ASBVI Summer Camp serviced students PreK-Age 16. Students ages 16-21 participated in Jump Start, a three-week paid skills training program held in partnership with Division of Services for the Blind. Both programs focus on the expanded core curriculum for the Blind and Visually Impaired and are open to all visually impaired students throughout the state.



ASBVI Summer Camp's theme this year was "Game Show". Students practiced trivia, math questions, history-related questions, etc. through a variety of games. The main games played this summer, in true Game Show fashion, were "Let's Make A Deal", "Minute to Win It", "Plinko", "Who Wants to Be A Millionaire"- all of which had educational components, such as budgeting, risk taking, fact recall, and activities of daily living. Students were allowed to stay in the dorms or be day campers. Recreational and social activities were offered, as well as cane travel practice, braille, adaptive technology, and independent living skills were emphasized.



# ASBVI Lion Athletics



**ASBVI competes in the  
North Central  
Association of Schools  
for the Blind (NCASB) in  
the following sports:**

**Track**

**Goal Ball**

**Wrestling**

**Cheerleading**



**ASBVI is a member of  
the Arkansas Activities  
Association (AAA) and  
competes through in-  
state conference in  
wrestling.**

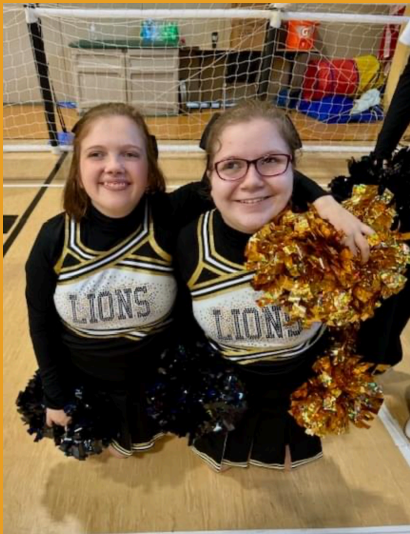
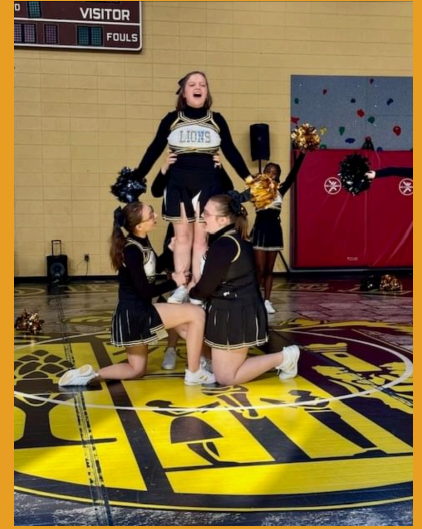


**ASBVI also competes in  
Special Olympics.**





# ASBVI Cheerleading Team





# NCASB National Champions

**The ASBVI Cheerleading Team had a spectacular year. The team won the NCASB National Championship, Most Spirited Mascot, the Spirit Award, and the Outstanding Cheerleader Award.**





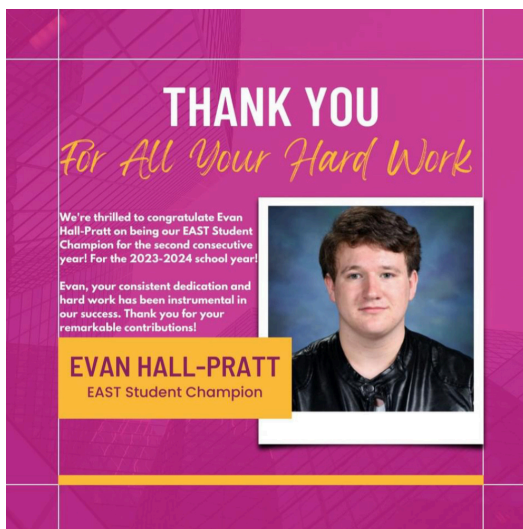


The ASBVI EAST program celebrated another amazing school year in 2023–2024! This year, the EAST students worked toward gaining new community partners and visiting with outside businesses and communities. Students have been partnering with state public schools with projects that will benefit the visually impaired community, one of which was the Little Rock Zoo. ASBVI received an EAST initiative grant and purchased several pieces of technology. Two main pieces were a laser cutter and an updated poster plotter. The school team was also featured at the EAST CON conference in Hot Springs, where two students were recognized as EAST Champions.





EAST's focus is "Education Accelerated through Service and Technology" and has a foundation built on four defining principles: technology driven, student-led, service-based, and collaborative. ASBVI students consistently hit the mark in all these principles through their projects this past year. Moreover, they have continued gaining the critical skills that are needed for the future workforce. EAST allows our students to take ownership of their programs. The ASBVI EAST Program is approved by DESE, and students earn course credit that can be applied to meet state graduation requirements.





# Total Solar Eclipse



**ASBVI celebrated the total solar eclipse in April with a unique and inclusive approach. Thanks to the generosity of the LightSound Project at Harvard University, ASBVI received two LightSound Solar Eclipse Sonification devices. These innovative tools are designed to convert the varying light intensities experienced during a solar eclipse into sound, making the eclipse accessible to blind and visually impaired students.**





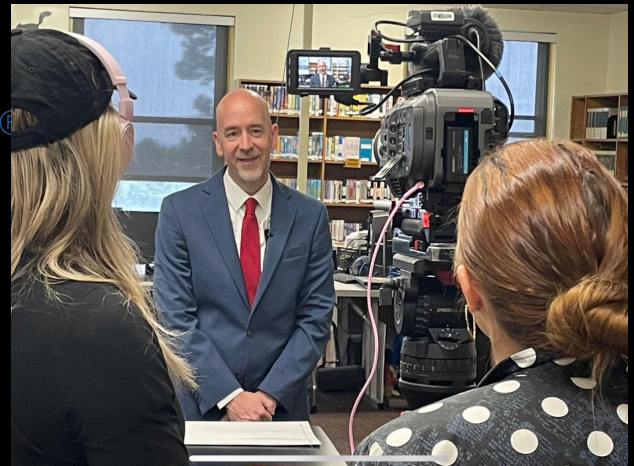
# April 8, 2024



**This initiative not only allowed students to engage with the eclipse in a meaningful way but also showcased the potential of technology to bridge accessibility gaps. The use of the LightSound technology by ASBVI garnered attention from The Weather Channel, which featured a story highlighting the students' experiences with the devices and an interview with Secretary of Education, Jacob Oliva, and Board of Trustees Chairman, Robert Fagan.**



**THE  
WEATHER  
CHANNEL**





# ***"It's All About The Kids"***

