

FLORIDA

Blind/Visual Impairment Resources



Florida Blind/Visual Impairment Resources

Assistive Technology Educational Network of Florida

1207 Mellonville Avenue

Sanford, FL 32771

Phone: (800) 328-3678

Fax: (407)688-4593

E-mail: Diane_Penn@scps.k12.fl.us

Website: <http://www.aten.scps.k12.fl.us/>

Contact Name: Diane Penn

Organization Type: Assistive Technology, Information Centers, Parent/Family Support, Schools and School Districts

Disabilities Served: General / Non-disability Specific, Autism, Brain Injury and Stroke, Cerebral Palsy, Communication and Speech, Deaf / Blind, Developmental Disabilities, Health Impairments, Learning Disabilities, Mental Retardation, Mobility Impaired, Multiple Disabilities, Multiple Sclerosis, Muscular Dystrophy, Neurological Disorders, Orthopedically Impaired, Cystic Fibrosis

Assistive Technology Educational Network of Florida (ATEN) is a state-wide, grant funded project administered by Seminole County Public Schools, serving students ages 3-21. ATEN provides services to students, family members, teachers, and other professionals within the state of Florida. The mission of ATEN is to assist in the enhancement of student outcomes through provision of information, training, and technical support in the area of assistive technology. ATEN's professional staff includes educators, speech-language pathologists and occupational therapists.

Braille International Inc.

3290 S.E. Slater Street

Stuart, FL 34997

Telephone: 772-286-8366

Fax: 772-286-8909

Email: info@brailleintl.org

We produce a wide variety of titles assigned to us by the National Library Service.

These include bestsellers and award winners in both the fiction and non-fiction categories, as well as a

large selection of classics and children's books. In addition to this, we produce the Sunshine State Young

Reader's selections (grades 3-5 and 6-8), manuals and other materials for the Girl Scouts of the USA, and monthly

book selections for the American Action Fund Free Book Program. We are also the proud producers of Bibles (KJV and NKJV) and related books and materials for Braille Bibles International.

- **MAGAZINES** - Each year we produce popular magazines that are assigned to us by the National Library Services. Also, many independent magazines turn to us to produce their magazines in braille. Among others, we currently produce the classroom editions of

National Geographic (all 4 versions) and Decision Magazine (Billy Graham).

- **MENUS** - Braille International has produced menus for everything from local mom and pop's to national chains. Our clients have included Hard Rock Café, NASA (Cape Canaveral), Sea World, Bono's, Planet Hollywood, Paesano's, Weight Watchers, Bern's Steak House and Walt Disney World.

Center for the Visually Impaired

1187 Dunn Avenue
Daytona Beach, FL 32114
(386) 253-8879
(386) 253-9178-FAX

The mission of the Center for the Visually Impaired is to empower and provide opportunities for individuals who are blind or visually impaired to reach their highest personal, social and vocational potential through quality education, practical experiences and support services.

The Center for the Visually Impaired is a non-profit agency dedicated to serving the special needs of blind and visually impaired individuals and has been providing a wide variety of critical services for the past 20 years. The full range of rehabilitation and training programs, as well as social services, low vision services, and employment services for teenagers enables students to preserve their independence and achieve their highest potential.

Carolyn's Low Vision Products

3938 South Tamiami Trail
Sarasota, FL 34231-3622
800-648-2266 (Toll free)
941-373-9100
www.carolynscatalog.com
E-mail: support@carolynscatalog.com

Carolyn's products include canes, computer supplies, electronics, fit over shields and sunglasses, games, household products, lamps, magnifiers, medical supplies, telephones, stationery, video magnifiers, vitamins, watches and clocks.

Enabling Technologies

1601 NE Braille Place
Jensen Beach, FL 34957
800-777-3687 (Toll free)
772-225-3687
800-950-3687 (Toll free fax)
772-225-3299 (Fax)
www.brailler.com
E-mail: info@brailler.com

Enabling Technologies designs, manufactures, and supports a wide range of braille printers and embossers. They also provide a comprehensive list of frequently asked questions about braille embossers.

Florida Blind Services

325 West Gaines Street; Room 1114, Turlington Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0400

Phone: (800) 342-1828 (850) 245-0300

Fax: (850) 245-0363

E-mail: Craig.Kiser@dbs.fldoe.org

Website: <http://dbs.myflorida.com/>

Contact Name: Craig Kiser

Organization Type: General

Disabilities Served: Visual Impairment / Blind

The mission of the Florida Blind Services is to ensure blind and visually impaired Floridians have the tools, support, and opportunity to achieve success. The Division of Blind Services is Florida's state agency responsible for ensuring that people of all ages in the state who have visual impairments can live independently and achieve their goals. Also, its Bureau of Braille and Talking Book Library administers a free library program of Braille and recorded materials for eligible readers. Their services are provided through 12 district offices, or through a local Center for Independent Living. Florida Blind Services provides the following: a Blind Babies Program, a Children's Program, a School-to-Work or Transition Program, independent living services, vocational rehabilitation services, employer services, business enterprise services, and Braille and talking book library services.

Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System (FDLRS): Technology Coordinating Unit

PAEC, 753 West Blvd.

Chipley, FL 32428

Phone: (850) 638-6131

Fax: (850) 638-6142

E-mail: david@fdlrstech.com

Website: <http://www.paec.org/fdlrsweb/technology.htm>

Contact Name: David Davis, Technology Coordinator

Organization Type: Assistive Technology, State and Local Agencies

Disabilities Served: General / Non-disability Specific

FDLRS provides assistance and support in the appropriate use of a variety of technologies for students, teachers, professional staff, and parents. Services include: promoting local awareness, identification, acquisition, and effective integration of assistive and adaptive technologies; facilitating the identification and use of augmentative communication systems; promoting integration of instructional technology with effective teaching, leading to improved learner outcomes; providing support to districts/schools in the identification of accessible instructional and assessment media; supporting the use of technology to help students manage their behavior to be successful in the classroom and community; providing opportunities to explore equipment, components, and program solutions that may expand learning options for students through the use

of new and emerging technologies; and facilitating the identification and use of technologies that present information and training through distance education options such as interactive video, on-line courses, and other interactive multimedia methods.

Florida Division of Blind Services

Miami District Office

Division of Blind Services
District Administrator: [Gail Sterner](#)
401 N.W. 2nd Avenue, Room S-714
Miami, FL 33128
Tel: (305) 377-5339
Fax: (305) 377-5691
Serves Dade and Monroe Counties

The Division of Blind Services is Florida's state agency responsible for ensuring that people of all ages in the state who are blind or visually impaired can live independently and achieve their goals. Also, its Bureau of Braille and Talking Book Library administers a free library program of Braille and recorded materials for eligible readers.

Florida Instructional Material Center for the Visually Impaired

4210 West Bay Villa Avenue, Room 26
Tampa, FL 33611-1206

Phone: 813-837-7826

Fax: 813-837-7979

E-mail: sdalton@fimcvi.org

Website: <http://www.fimcvi.org/>

Contact Name: Suzanne A. Dalton, Supervisor

Organization Type: Assistive Technology, Information Centers, Parent/Family Support, Schools and School Districts, State and Local Agencies, State and Local Organizations

Disabilities Served: Visual Impairment / Blind

FIMC-VI is part of the Fl. Dept. of Education. The main purpose of the Center is to acquire, produce, and disseminate braille, large print, and audio books for the V.I. and blind students in Florida.

Florida Lions Conklin Center for the Blind

405 White St.

Daytona Beach, FL 32114

Phone: (386) 258-3441

E-mail: info@conklincenter.org

Website: <http://www.conklincenter.org/>

Organization Type: General

Disabilities Served: Visual Impairment / Blind

The Florida Lions Conklin Center for the Blind is a nationally-accredited human service organization in Daytona Beach, FL. They are dedicated to providing coordinated vocational and independent living services to individuals who are blind and have one or more other disabilities.

The Center takes great pride that over 80% of students who complete their vocational training program every year become gainfully employed, graduate to further academic or vocational training, or gain sufficient skills to be more self-supporting.

Florida Outreach Center for the Blind

1280 North Congress Street; Suite 108
West Palm Beach, FL 33406

Phone: (561) 640-6029

E-mail: info_foch@bellsouth.net

Website: <http://www.flblindcenter.org/>

Organization Type: Disability/Disorder Specific, State and Local Organizations

Disabilities Served: Visual Impairment / Blind

The Florida Outreach Center for the Blind is a nonprofit resource center for visually impaired persons. All of their programs are free and oriented toward the assistance of such persons in adjusting to their environment and disability. The Center operates on the philosophy that it is respectable to be blind, and believes that when given the proper tools, training and opportunity, a blind person can lead a normal, independent, and productive life.

Florida Outreach Project for Children and Young Adults Who Are Deaf-Blind

P.O. Box 100234

Gainesville , FL 32610-0234

Phone: (352)846-2757 (800)667-4052 (352)846-2759 (TTY)

Fax: (352) 846-0941

E-mail: info@deafblind.ufl.edu

Website: <http://www.deafblind.ufl.edu/>

Organization Type: General

Disabilities Served: Deaf / Blind

The Florida Outreach Project for Children and Young Adults Who Are Deaf-Blind is committed to promoting educational practice that leads to the full participation of people who are deaf-blind as active members of the community. This is accomplished through person-centered approaches focused on building the capacity of local teams and fostering self-determination of the individual. The Project offers four main services: Technical Assistance and Support, Lending Library, Training, and Collecting Census Data. For Technical Assistance and Support, the project staff coordinates with the Centers for Autism and Related Disabilities in Florida to provide effective and efficient technical assistance through on-site visits, dissemination of resource materials, and crisis intervention via telephone or electronic mail. A person-centered teaming approach is used to provide assistance, build partnerships among students, family members, interventionists, educators, social workers and others.

Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind

207 N. San Marco Avenue

St. Augustine, FL 32084

Phone: (904) 827-2200 1-(800)-344-3732

E-mail: dayc@fsdb.k12.fl.us

Website: http://www.fsdb.k12.fl.us/administrative_info/enrollment_criteria.php

Contact Name: Cindy Day, Director of Parent Information Office

Organization Type: General

Disabilities Served: Deaf / Blind, Hearing Impairments / Deaf, Visual Impairment / Blind

The Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind is the state's center public school for eligible hearing-impaired and visually-impaired students pre-school through 12th grade. There is no cost to families for tuition for eligible Florida residents. The School is comprised of two departments: the Department for the Deaf and the Department for the Blind and Special Needs. The Special Needs Department serves students who are deaf or blind and who have a secondary handicap which affects their ability to learn. The mission of the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind is to utilize all available talent, energy, and resources to provide free appropriate public education for eligible sensory-impaired students of Florida. As a school of academic excellence, the school shall strive to provide students an opportunity to access education services in a caring, safe, unique learning environment to prepare them to be literate, employable, and independent lifelong learners.

Freedom Scientific

11800 31st Court North

St. Petersburg, FL 33716-1805

Phone: 1-(800) 444-4443

Fax: (727) 803-8001

E-mail: info@FreedomScientific.com

Website: <http://www.freedomsci.com/>

Organization Type: General

Disabilities Served: Learning Disabilities, Visual Impairment / Blind

Freedom Scientific offers a variety of products and services. Their products range from hardware to software to various accessories. The hardware includes personal note taking, Braille embossing, computer Braille displays and scanning & reading printed media. Software includes screen reading, screen magnification, web access, scanning & reading and WYNN literacy software. In addition to the hardware and software, they offer services. These services include tutorials and trainings. The trainings are for assistive technology professionals, trainers, corporate IT personnel and these trainings are offered on-site and off-site training seminars. The tutorials are offered off of their website and range in training for various software applications. Finally, you can access all of their products via their online store.

Magnifying Aids

1780 Main Street, Suite A

Dunedin, FL 34698

866-691-2450 (Toll free)

727-234-0664

727-491-3857 (Fax)

Magnifying Aids offers braille; clocks and watches; computer software and access; diabetes management; kitchen and housekeeping; labeling and marking; lighting; low vision; mobility

devices; personal care; recreation and leisure; talking products; telephones and accessories; writing and reading devices.

Miami Lighthouse for the Blind

601 SW 8th Avenue

Miami, FL 33130

Phone: (305) 856-2288

Fax: (305) 285-6967

E-mail: info@miamilighthouse.org

Website: <http://www.miamilighthouse.com/>

Contact Name: Virginia A. Jacko, President

Organization Type: Assistive Technology, Independent and Community Living, Information Centers, State and Local Organizations

Disabilities Served: Visual Impairment / Blind

The Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Inc evolved from Heiken, which was a countywide charitable organization dedicated to providing free comprehensive eye examinations and eyeglasses to all children grades K-12 who lacked the financial means. Currently they provide services in five main areas. Their adult services include programs at the Miami Lighthouse Blind and Visually impaired that enable individuals who are blind or visually impaired to regain independent living skills. Youth Programs help teens transition into adulthood whether they want to pursue a career, higher education or acquire the skills necessary to live more independently. Their Solutions Store is a one-stop shop dedicated to the needs of individuals who are blind or visually impaired. They have products and technology available here to help individuals maintain an active and independent lifestyle, including talking watches, magnifiers, mobility canes, task lighting, diabetes supplies, games and more. The Miami Lighthouse Low Vision Specialists provide a full range of products from magnifiers, lamps, daily living aids to video magnifiers and screen magnification for those who are computer savvy. Finally, this organization provides life enrichment classes which are designed to improve and expand the lives of students.

Talking Books Library

2455 NW 183 Street Miami, FL 33056

305-751-8687 800-451-9544

Email: talkingbooks@mdpls.org

The **Talking Books Library** loans Braille and audio books and magazines, along with a player, FREE by mail to persons who have difficulty reading or using printed books and other materials because of blindness, or visual, physical, or reading disabilities. An outreach service of the Miami-Dade Public Library System and the Library of Congress National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, the Talking Books Library serves all of Miami-Dade and Monroe counties. Referrals are available to other Talking Book libraries nationwide.

Learning to read and write Braille is considered the key to literacy for persons who are blind or have very low vision. The Talking Books Library provides materials in Braille, including books, magazines and print/Braille picture books for younger readers and their families. Print/Braille board and picture books are also available in the Miami-Dade Public Library System's collection, and children's programs in Braille are offered in library branches.

Watson Center

6925 112th Circle N Ste. 103

Largo, FL 33773

Phone: (727) 544-4433

Fax: (727) 544-5511

E-mail: bbennett@lighthouseofpinellas.org

Website: <http://www.watsoncenter.org/>

Contact Name: Beverly Bennett

Organization Type: General

Disabilities Served: Visual Impairment / Blind

The Watson Center provides a continuum of services for individuals who are blind and visually impaired, beginning as early as birth and continuing throughout their lives. Individuals who have limited vision or are blind have continually demonstrated that given the proper training and services, they can successfully work and live independently in their communities. The Watson Center is dedicated to that goal and has been providing help for vision loss to the people of Pinellas County for nearly 45 years. Adults benefit from an independent living skills program that includes training in safe travel, communication skills, home and personal management as well as personal and family support groups. New to the program is a computer lab featuring the use of adaptive software programs, and classes in computer literacy and Internet use. Services to infants and children are also provided through a comprehensive early intervention program, which includes vision training and sensory concept development, physical, speech and occupational therapies. Services are specialized as they relate to blindness and visual impairment. Therapeutic playgroups emphasize skills necessary for school readiness. Parents and families are provided opportunities to participate in their child's training and take part in family-centered support groups. A summer camp for pre-teens provides opportunities for learning life skills in a fun and relaxed environment. Young adults, as early as 14, come to the Watson Center for training in daily living skills, technology and computer training, safe and efficient travel in their daily environments and pre-employment skills.

Sources of Custom-Produced Books

Boca Raton

RFB&D Recording Studio, Palm Beach County Studio

Florida Atlantic University

Building T-5, Suite 23

777 Glades Road

P.O. Box 3091

Boca Raton, FL 33431-0991

(561) 417-4002

(561) 417-0137 fax

Recording: educational texts for students in kindergarten through postgraduate studies; 4-track cassette duplication

Other Information: see NJ-6 for national headquarters and details

Temple Beth-El Sisterhood
333 Southwest Fourth Avenue
Boca Raton, FL 33432
(561) 391-8900
Chairperson: Ms. Helen M. Friedman
405 North Ocean Boulevard, #422
Pompano Beach, FL 33062-5125
(954) 782-9759
Cochairperson: Mrs. George (Rose) Karden

Braille: literary, textbooks, Spanish

Other Information: sponsors transcribing classes

Daytona Beach

Division of Blind Services
Bureau of Braille and Talking Book Library Service
Volunteer and Community Relations
420 Platt Street
Daytona Beach, FL 32114-2804
(904) 239-6000
(904) 239-6069 fax
Section head: Doug Hall

Braille: literary, textbooks, short items, job-related documents; spiral binding; computer-produced; software (Duxbury)

Recording: general, textbooks, job-related documents; duplication; open-reel and cassette masters

Other Information: materials available to Florida residents and cannot accept requests from out of state

Fort Lauderdale

Insight for the Blind, Inc.
1401 North East Fourth Avenue
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33304
(954) 522-5057
Chairperson: Mrs. Caroline E. Mansur

Recording: general, textbooks, recreational reading; open-reel masters

Hollywood

Beth-El Sisterhood Service to the Blind

1351 South 14th Avenue

Hollywood, FL 33020

(954) 920-8225

Chairperson: Blanche Geier

1322 Jefferson Street

Hollywood, FL 33019

(954) 920-6564

Braille: literary; spiral binding; and punch and bind for Jewish Braille Institute of America, New York City

Braille chairperson: Florence Bohlen

20335 West Country Club Drive

North Miami Beach, FL 33180

(305) 932-8702

Jacksonville

Temple Sisterhood Braille Group

8727 San Jose Boulevard

Jacksonville, FL 32217

President: Marienne French

12755 Dogwood Hill Drive

Jacksonville, FL 32223

(904) 268-2089

Vice-president: Joy Collins

(904) 246-1171

Braille: literary, textbooks, math; tactile drawings and maps; thermoforming; spiral binding; computer-produced; software (Edgar, Ed-It and Ed-It PC, MegaDots, Pokadot, MicroBraille, TranscriBex); embosser (Romeo)

Other Information: sponsors transcribing classes

Lake Worth

Mildred Kraus

7848A Hyde Street

Lake Worth, FL 33467

(561) 433-0691

Braille: math, literary textbooks; computer-produced; software (MicroBraille)

Lantana

Volunteer Braille Services, Inc.
c/o Royal Palm School
6650 Lawrence Road
Lantana, FL 33462
(407) 641-1026
Chairperson: Mrs. Margaret Lind
8102B Oakton Court
Lake Clarke Shores, FL 33406
(561) 967-7279
Cochairperson: Mrs. Betty Day
(407) 582-6394

Braille: literary, math, textbooks, Spanish; thermoforming; computer-produced; embosser (Cranmer)

Other Information: sponsors transcribing classes, maintains book-master collection

Miami

RFB&D Recording Studio
6704 Southwest 80th Street
Miami, FL 33143
(305) 666-0552
(305) 667-2505 fax
Executive director: Christine McCarthy
Studio Director: Kathleen Fisler

Recording: educational texts for students in kindergarten through postgraduate studies; 4-track cassette duplication

Other Information: see [NJ-6](#) for national headquarters and more details

Orlando

Braille Association of Mid-Florida, Inc.
1500 Falcon Drive
Orlando, FL 32803
(407) 897-3367
Chairperson, Braille Book Center: Mrs. Ruth Jean Ostle

*1174 Winged Foot Circle East
Winter Springs, FL 32708
(407) 365-7874
Cochairperson: Mrs. Barbara Henry*

Braille: literary, math, textbooks, computer notation, French, Spanish; tactile drawings and maps, math, biology, engineering diagrams; thermoforming; spiral binding; computer-produced; software; embosser (Romeo, Resus)

Recording: general, math, textbooks, computer science; cassette masters; 2-track cassette duplication

Recording chairperson: Mrs. Pepper Davis
1032 Pinar Drive
Orlando, FL 32825
(407) 275-1492 *Other information:* sponsors transcribing classes, maintains book-master collection

Sarasota

*Sarasota County Braille Transcribers
4336 Kingston Loop
Sarasota, FL 34238
(941) 921-2027
President: Doris Schuyler*

Braille: literary, math, music, textbooks, French, German, Spanish; computer-produced; software (MicroBraille, Ed-It, MegaDots, TranscriBex); embosser (VersaPoint and Romeo 25)

Braille chairperson: Mrs. E.W. Goodman
1519 Blue Heron Drive
Sarasota, FL 34239
(941) 366-3410

Other information: sponsors transcribing classes

Satellite Beach

*Brevard Association for the Advancement of the Blind
674 South Patrick Drive
Satellite Beach, FL 32937
(321) 773-7222
President: Ms. Marjorie G. Pailleron*

Braille: literary

Braille chairperson: Ms. Marjorie G. Pailleron

Recording: general, math, textbooks, computer science, magazines, bulletins; cassette and open-reel masters; cassette and open-reel duplication

Recording chairperson: Mrs. Anne McKelvey

Other information: sponsors transcribing classes

Shalimar

Northwest Florida Visionnaires, Inc.

P.O. Box 444

Shalimar, FL 32579

(850) 862-4495

Chairperson: Kay Toner

1288 North Bayshore Drive

Valparaiso, FL 32580

(850) 729-2452

Cochairperson: Bettie Downing

Braille: literary, math, music, textbooks; computer-produced; software (Ed-It, TranscriBex); IBM Mega-Dots typing translation; Ed-It-PC

Braille chairperson: Mrs. Marian Sauers

7 Palm Drive

Shalimar, FL 32579

(850) 651-0442

Typing translation: Murf Hane

P.O. Box 444

Shalimar, FL 32579

(850) 651-0139

Recording: general, textbooks; cassette and open-reel masters

Recording chairperson: Mrs. Pat Heintzelman

661 Merioneth

Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548

(904) 862-9398

Large print: general, math, music, textbooks

Large-print chairperson: Col. Ed Newman

105 Edward Circle
Valparaiso, FL 32580
(850) 678-7410

Other information: accepts material from out of state subject to availability of assets; sponsors transcribing classes

St. Petersburg

Pinellas Braille Group, Inc.
c/o Temple Beth-El
400 Pasadena Avenue South
St. Petersburg, FL 33707
(727) 347-6136
President: Mrs. Grace Pellone
200 Bounty Court
Treasure Island, FL 33706
(727) 360-0619

Braille: literary, math, textbooks, computer science, French, Latin, Spanish; math drawings; computer-produced; software (Ed-It and Ed-It PC, MicroBraille)

Literary braille chairperson: Mrs. Dolores Ryan
7902 Sailboat Key Boulevard #305
South Pasadena, FL 33707
(727) 360-0380

Textbook braille chairperson: Mrs. Vilma C. Spector
6155 28th Street South
St. Petersburg, FL 33712
(727) 867-5689
vilgil@aol.com

Recording: general, math, textbooks; open-reel masters

Recording chairperson: Mrs. Eileen Balliett
14275 86th Avenue North
Seminole, FL 33776
(727) 596-5615

Large print: general, textbooks; by large-print typewriter

Large-print chairperson: Mrs. Marian Smith
2101 45th Avenue North

St. Petersburg, FL 33713
(727) 323-5617 *Other information:* sponsors transcribing classes

Stuart

Second Sight Taping Studio, Inc.
Smithfield Plaza
2153 South East Ocean Boulevard
Stuart, FL 34996
(561) 288-2040
President of the board of directors: Mr. Philip O'Neil
Studio manager: Sue Weinand

Recording: general, textbooks; open-reel masters; cassette duplication

Tampa

Visual Aid Volunteers of Florida, Inc.
c/o Florida Instructional Materials Center
5002 North Lois Avenue
Tampa, FL 33614
(800) 282-9193
President: Rella Corris
4295A Mango Tree Court
Boynton Beach, FL 33436-3705
(561) 738-0737
Assignment chairperson: Bonnie Gonzalez

Braille: literary, math, music, textbooks, computer science, foreign languages; tactile drawings and maps; thermoforming; spiral binding; computer-produced; software (Ed-It); embosser (Ohtsuki)

Recording: general, math, textbooks, computer science, foreign languages; open-reel masters; cassette and open-reel duplication

Recording chairperson: John Cardinale
5002 North Lois Avenue
Tampa, FL 33614
(800) 282-9193

Large print: general, math, music, textbooks, computer science, foreign languages; spiral binding; by photoenlarging

Other Information: sponsors transcribing classes, maintains book-master collection, provides title list