Annual Report 2012

The DRS Vocational Rehabilitation Reimbursement program exceeded $1.8 million in revenue through Social Security Administration reimbursements for 153 individuals who maintained wages high enough to completely leave the SSA's Disability and Supplemental Security Income programs.

SSA reimburses DRS for every dollar spent for their counseling and training services.

DRS Publication No: 13-06, February 2013

This publication is authorized by the Oklahoma Commission for Rehabilitation Services in accordance with state and federal regulations and printed by the Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services at a cost of $4,297.50 for 750 copies. This publication is available on the DRS website. DRS offices may request copies via Compass. For additional copies, contact DRS Central Departmental Services at 405-951-3400 or 800-845-8476 toll free.

The best investment in Oklahoma citizenry is the

Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Service.

We are the premier agency in educating and preparing people with disabilities for employment. As a result, they become financial assets to the state and valued neighbors in their community.

People with Disabilities is a stock worth investing in.

Opening Doors to Opportunity

DRS

Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services

DRS leadership studied, researched and discussed many things to make this agency better for staff, better for clients and better for Oklahoma taxpayers. Servant Leadership management is the result of that effort. Strategic meetings and great ideas help us develop new ways to conduct business and reinforce the core of what we want to be. The Great Purpose of the Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation is not a slogan or saying of the week — it is our commitment to you and to ourselves.

Great Purpose

"Opening Doors to Independence and Cool Jobs with Benefits for People with Disabilities"

CONTENTS

From the Director 6

Organization Chart 8

2012 Actual Expenditures 9

Oklahoma Rehabilitation Services Commission 10

Characteristics of Persons Rehabilitated in VR and VS 12

Dreamer, Tiffany Thompson 13

Vocational Rehabilitation 16

Visual Services 18

Working Together 20

Return on Investment, Retired Rob Hill 21

Disability Determination 24

School Census 26

Oklahoma School for the Blind 28

Oklahoma School for the Deaf 29

DRS Services by County 30

Director Mike O'Brien's enthusiasm for teaching and encouraging staff is evident, even at a Harry Potter themed event at DDD's employee awards and recognition luncheon.

Commission meetings afford O'Brien the opportunity not only to tell the commission all the current news, but also to tape a video message conveying that same report to all staff.

Click on the video to the above view one of his monthly messages.

Michael O'Brien, Ed.D.
Executive Director

So often people think of investments as only a financial thing, but we, at DRS, think more of the human capital. When we invest our energy correctly, the investment we make in our clients or students is paid back to us and our state many fold.

The human spirit is capable of many things regardless of the physical shell that surrounds it. That is the very reason that after 35 years of working with people with disabilities, they can still inspire and amaze me.

Oklahoma has almost 600,000 people with disabilities. The cost to a society is too high if we leave this community behind. Through DRS vocational rehabilitation programs, we work with people with disabilities to create workplace assets for Oklahoma and her employers. Many people with disabilities are brilliant, dependable, committed and loyal individuals — an awesome addition to any workplace.

Our Vocational Rehabilitation and Visual Services divisions work directly with clients to assist them in finding their "cool job with benefits." Our counselors will identify the barriers to employment and work with the clients to develop a plan to guide them to their goal — a job or keeping their job.

Each year, these two divisions are given a certain number of cases to close by our federal governing body, the Rehabilitation Services Administration. Not only did we achieve our goal — we smashed it. We closed 3,106 cases, 294 more than our requirement of 2,812 for the year. I am incredibly proud of our staff for the hard work and commitment they have displayed this year.

The future wealth of all societies lies solely in the amount of time, energy and heart, the adults in that society give to their children. We believe we have students at the Oklahoma School for the Blind and the Oklahoma School for the Deaf who will change the world for the better, if we do our job right. If we provide a solid education with the proper social environment – greatness will surely follow.

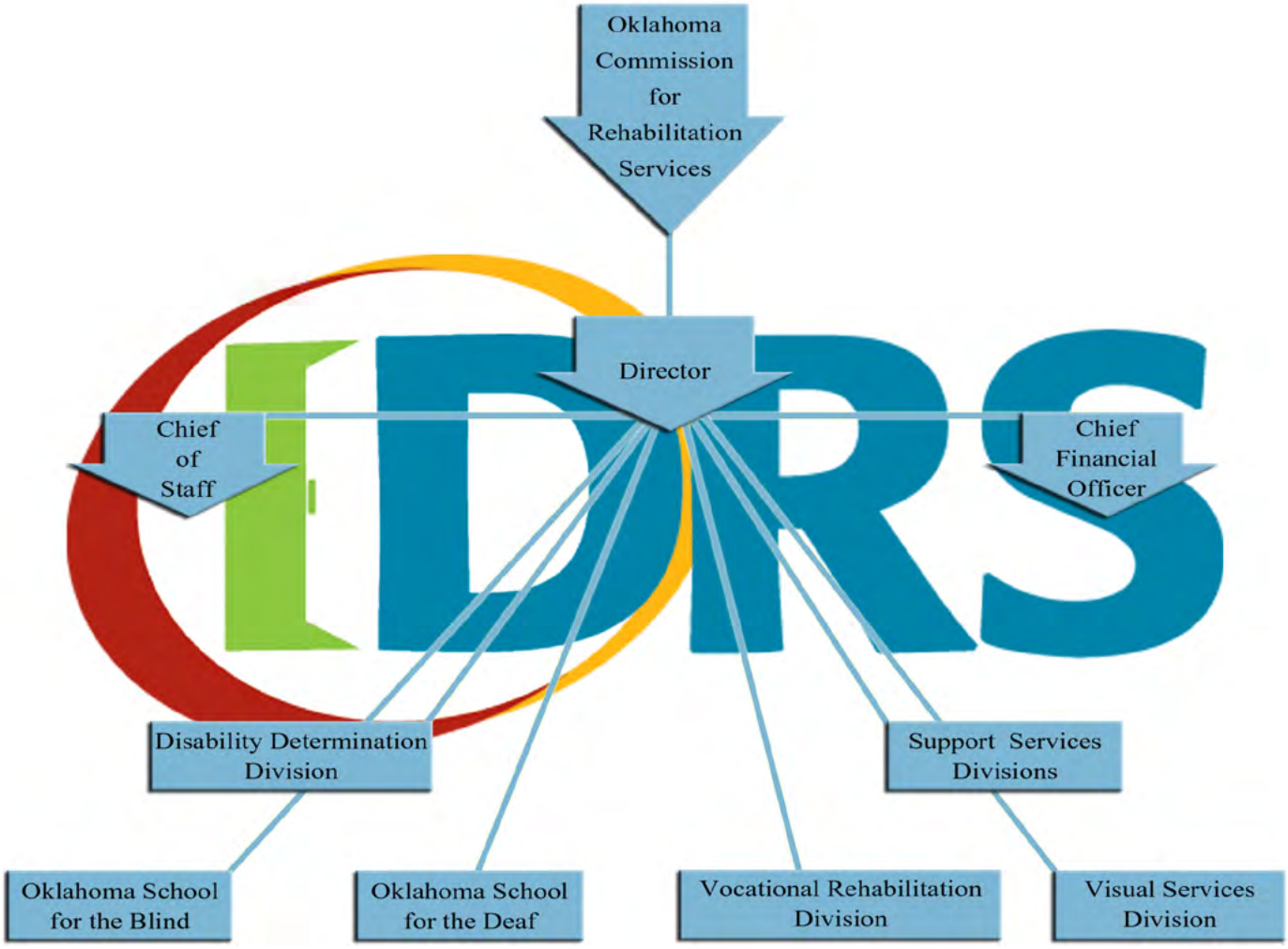
We are providing that solid education along with specialized skills that are not usually taught in the mainstream classroom. The full immersion in an environment rich in American Sign Language affords students who are deaf a better understanding of subjects and encourages communication between the students and teacher. Orientation and mobility for students who are blind teach the students to be independent and adventurous.

The staff of our Disability Determination division takes great pride in the quality of the work they produce. In FY 2012, the Oklahoma DDD made overall accurate decisions in 95 percent of the initial claims as measured by the Social Security Administration's Office of Quality Performance. For the rolling quarter of July 2012 – September 2012, the accuracy rate was 97.3 percent.

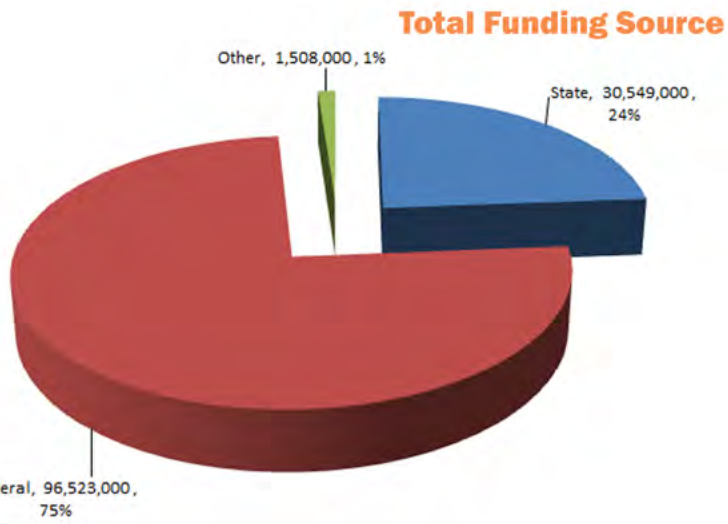
The connectivity of this diverse agency is its support staff who are often unsung heroes. They make sure that we meet our Great Purpose: Opening Doors to Independence and Cool Jobs with Benefits for People with Disabilities.

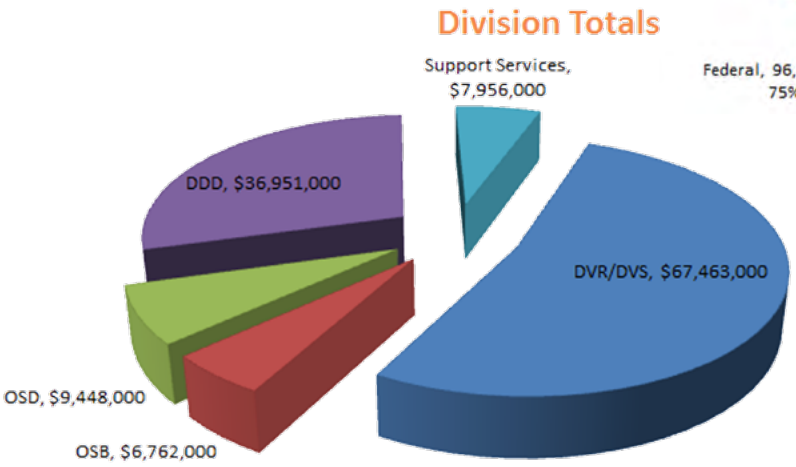
WELCOME

This agency employs more than 1,000 Oklahomans across the state. There are five distinct divisions each with a clear vision on whom they serve.



DRS 2012 Actual Expenditures





Funding Source	DVR/DVS	OSB	OSD	DDD	Support Services	Total
State	$13,628,000	$6,391,000	$8,214,000		$2,316,000	$30,549,000
Federal	53,282,000	340,000	310,000	$36,951,000	5,640,000	96,523,000
Other	553,000	31,000	924,000*			1,508,000
Total	67,463,000	6,762,000	9,448,000	$36,951,000	7,956,000	128,580,000

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation / Division of Visual Services -The majority of funding for these programs is eligible for a federal/state match of 78.7 percent / 21.3 percent. DVS' Oklahoma Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped receives 100% state funding.

Oklahoma School for the Blind - The majority of funding for this program is state appropriations.

*Oklahoma School for the Deaf - The majority of the Other funding goes to the Equipment Distribution Program, which provides telecommunications and other equipment to deaf, hard of hearing, deaf-blind and severely speech-impaired individuals.

Disability Determination Division - This program is 100 percent federally funded.

Support Services - DRS utilizes an indirect cost rate as the standardized method for individual programs to pay a fair share of support service (general administration) costs.

*Statistical information based on *State Fiscal Year 2012*

The Oklahoma Commission for Rehabilitation Services meets monthly to discuss agency activities and plan for the future. Commission Chair Steve Shelton led the meetings and the commission through another successful year.

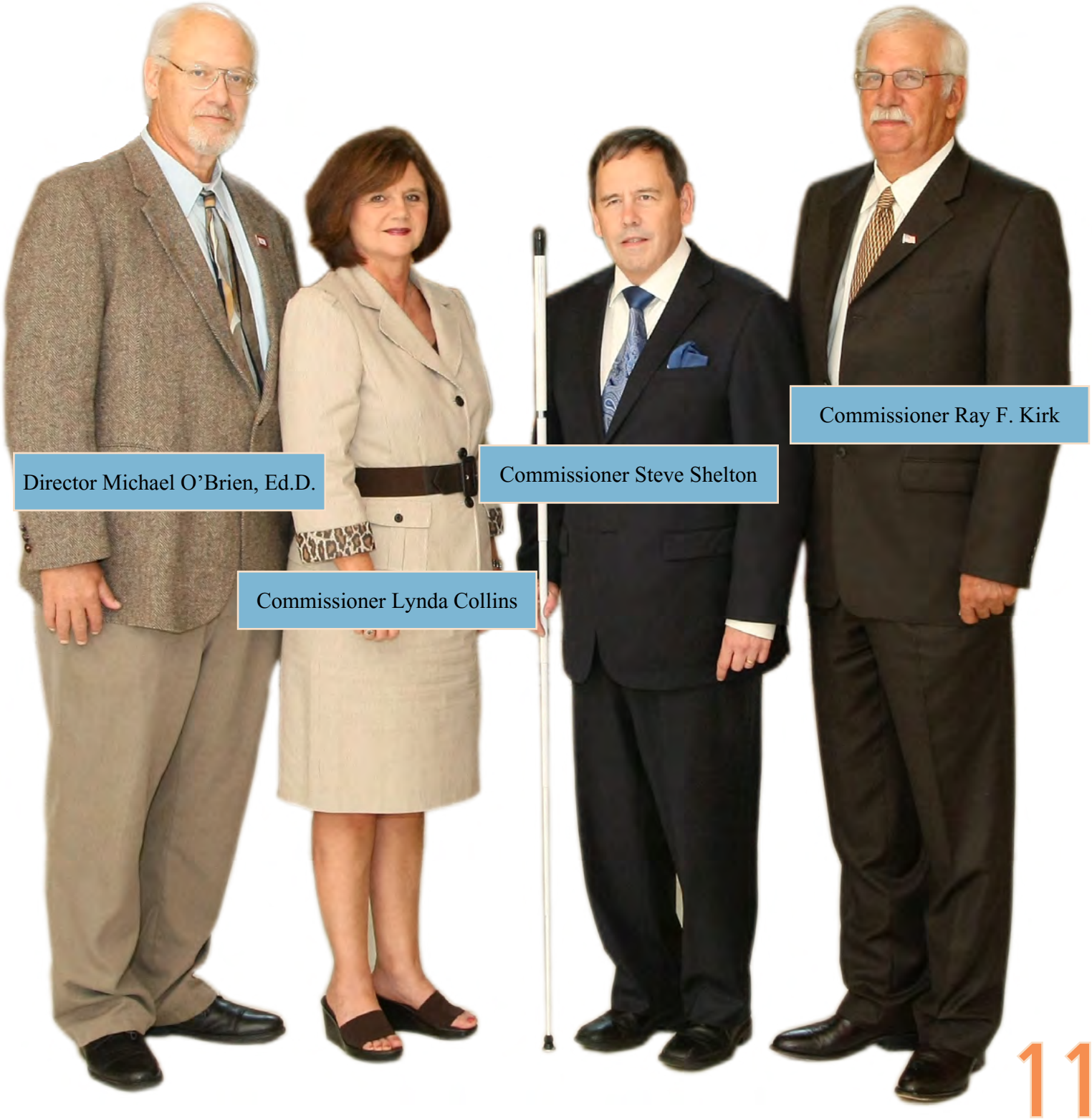
Commissioner Shelton devotes his time to the agency while still working full-time as a senior application programmer and consultant with Fidelity National Information Services. Shelton has great empathy for our clients as a former client himself. He was appointed to the commission by the speaker of the Oklahoma House of Representatives.

Commission Vice Chair Lynda Collins is a former DRS client who worked her way up through the ranks to Vocational Rehabilitation administrator, retiring after 33 years in 2005. Her previous DRS positions included field service coordinator, program manager, vocational rehabilitation counselor and vocational rehabilitation evaluator. She was appointed to the commission by Gov. Mary Fallin.

Commissioner Ray F. Kirk relies on his experience from 32 years as an insurance agent and his business as a rancher of a 580-acre spread. He was appointed to the commission by the president pro tempore of the State Senate.

Working directly with the commissioners is the agency Director Michael O'Brien, Ed.D. O'Brien leads approximately 985 employees. In state fiscal year 2012, O'Brien's staff assisted 92,070 Oklahomans with disabilities. He directs the agency, which is comprised of six program divisions, Vocational Rehabilitation, Visual Services, Oklahoma School for the Blind, Oklahoma School for the Deaf, Disability Determination and Support Services. Each division has its own goals along with the collective mission in opening doors to independence and cool jobs with benefits for Oklahomans with disabilities.

Oklahoma Commission for Rehabilitation Services



Characteristics of Persons Rehabilitated in VR and VS Programs

Gender

	Total Persons Rehabilitated	W/Severe Disabilities Rehabilitated
Male	1,625	1,445
Female	1,481	1,303

Race

White	2,348	2,065
African American	470	431
Asian	33	29
American Indian or Alaska Native	363	319
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	13	12
Hispanic Ethnicity	113	99*

Clients may indicate up to six races/ethnicities.

Age at Application

Younger than 20	745	653
20 to 21	144	124
22 to 34	594	521
35 to 44	420	370
45 to 64	854	748
65 and older	349	332

Education Level at Application

	Total Persons Rehabilitated	W/Severe Disabilities Rehabilitated
No formal schooling	7	6
Elementary education (Grades 1 through 8)	74	71
Secondary Education, no diploma (Grades 1 through 12)	825	737
Special education certificate of completion/diploma or in attendance.	58	46
High school graduate or equivalency certificate (regular education students)	1,122	993
Post-secondary education, no degree	490	426
Associate degree or Vocational/Technical Certificate	299	258
Bachelor's degree	171	158
Master's degree or higher	60	53

Primary Disability

Blind/Visual Impairment	459	421
Deaf/Hard of Hearing	409	347
Deaf-Blindness	14	14
Communicative Impairments	53	39
Orthopedic Impairment	371	322
Respiratory Impairments	32	25
General Physical Debilitation	84	64
Other Physical Impairments	366	323
Cognitive Impairments	732	647
Psychosocial Impairments	315	299
Other Mental Impairments	271	247

Dream m

Vocational Rehabilitation — training in a specific trade with the aim of gaining employment. Rehabilitation — the restoration of someone to a useful place in society.

Tiffany Thompson,

Relentless and driven. She is not a person to allow dyslexia stop her from attaining her dreams of being a college graduate and a family life therapist — definitely someone worth investing in.

Dreamer

TIFFANY THOMPSON

Delivering a monologue about dyslexia — the undeserved shame she was almost afraid to talk about — contributed to Tiffany Thompson's win in the Miss Black UCO 2012 scholarship pageant. The rewards were a pageant win on her seventh attempt, a $1,600 University of Central Oklahoma tuition waiver and the chance to help others face or understand an invisible learning disability that makes it difficult for people to read.

My monologue was called, 'Who am I?'," Thompson explained, "and it was about growing up having people tell me I wasn't going to be a success because I was black, wasn't going to be successful because I was a female."

For the first time ever, Thompson's family and friends heard her describe what it was like to get that heart attack feeling when called on to read out loud in school – to be laughed at and called stupid – and believe it.

"It's kind of like coming out of the closet. I can't go back. A room full of people, my peers. I just prayed, said this is obviously for the best. I never knew by me coming out and saying I was dyslexic somebody might go get tested."

Her vocational rehabilitation counselor Shanel Armstrong from the Vocational Rehabilitation division has helped prepare her for employment since high school, providing guidance and counseling and funding for university room and board, assistive technology and other expenses not covered by scholarships.

"I'm thrilled about Tiffany's success," Armstrong said. "She told me during her initial interview during her senior year in high school that she wanted to attend college and make a difference so she could give back to her community. I'm excited about her future and can't wait to see where life takes her."

Educating the public about dyslexia is Thompson's pageant platform, typically a social issue chosen by each contestant. It's something she would do for free, but UCO hired Thompson to put her natural compassion and communication skills to work in a program called Compass Learning Communities.

Her supervisor, Erica Townsend, assistant director of Academic Initiatives for Housing and Dining, met Thompson when she volunteered in her role as Miss UCO and knew she would be perfect to help with students develop skills and solve problems related to academic focus and retention.

In the fall of 2012, Thompson, a senior at UCO who wants to be a family life therapist, began as a paid peer mentor living with 48 incoming freshmen, many of whom are the first in their families to attend college.

"For a long time, I thought it was a curse to be dyslexic. Now, I call it 'the gift' because I learn different. I look at the world different. I'm just me."
—Tiffany Thompson
VR Client, college student holding down a job

Serving Oklahomans, our Vocational Rehabilitation and Visual Services divisions benefit our clients as well as our state and local communities. DRS provides the needed services that help the client build a strong foundation for a solid career.

The investment in a client's career is far more valuable to their spirit and our society more than a monthly entitlement check can ever be.

Without our services, some clients' only option would be to take assistance from the government to live. We help remove the barriers to employment — they actually do the work.

We create taxpayers.

Vocational Rehabilitation Clients Served

Clients Served	13,860
Program Applications	6,488
Employment Plans	2,846

Visual Services Clients Served

Clients Served	2,702
Program Applications	1,092
Employment Plans	553

Total Clients Served

Clients Served	16,562
Program Applications	7,580
Employment Plans	3,399

Vocational Rehabilitation Clients Employed

Employment Outcomes	2,464
Average Yearly Earnings	$19,711
Average Cost of Services Per Client	$11,282
Average Taxes Paid	$2,957

Visual Services Clients Employed

Employment Outcomes	642
Average Yearly Earnings	$13,339
Average Cost of Services Per Client	$9,637
Average Taxes Paid	$2,001

Total Clients Employed

Employment Outcomes	3,106
Average Yearly Earnings	$18,394
Average Cost of Services Per Client	$10,942
Average Taxes Paid	$2,759

All data reported on the federal FY-2012.

Vocational REHABILITATION

A total of 2,464 Oklahomans with physical or mental disabilities found gainful employment because of the Vocational Rehabilitation division's services.

Vocational Rehabilitation division staff provide services that include career counseling, vocational education and training, or medical services if it is determined it will help clients find employment. They may also receive assistive technology and job placement coaching. Counselors help clients find their own path to employment success and independence.

Haily Mathis, Transition: School to Work client, prepares to tape a public service announcement about the program that will air around the state -Watch the Dream Big video above.

When our clients reach their employment goals, they become members of the workforce. This can bring an improved sense of self for themselves personally. They also begin supporting their hometowns and the state through paying income tax, not to mention the benefit to the community by spending their earnings locally.

The DRS Vocational Rehabilitation Reimbursement program exceeded $1.8 million in revenue through Social Security Administration reimbursements on 153 individuals who maintained wages high enough to completely leave the SSA's Disability and Supplemental Security Income programs. SSA reimburses DRS for every dollar spent to help clients go to work.

For young adults with disabilities, VR has the Transition: School to Work program that takes high school students and prepares them for the work world. Transition counselors provide advice and training that often include summer jobs or workshops that teach interview and resume writing.

The deaf community benefits from our services through the VR process, but also through our QAST interpreter certification program. Not only do we help clients find work, we help by evaluating the proficiency of sign language interpreters for those who need them.

Division staff operate three career planning centers and coordinate services with eight tribal vocational rehabilitation programs.

To qualify for VR services, a person has a physical or mental disability that is a substantial barrier to employment and must be able to benefit from vocational rehabilitation services in ways that lead to finding and obtaining employment.

Being a narrator at the Oklahoma Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped is a big deal. Our standards dictate that we strive for quality recordings as good as, or better than, commercially produced audio books.

To provide that level of quality, the Oklahomans for Special Library Services brought MaryBeth Wise to Oklahoma to talk to our volunteers in an informal workshop setting for the mutual sharing of information.

Wise serves as a network consultant in the Network Services Section at National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS). She holds a Master of Library and Information Science degree and a Masters of Fine Arts in acting and a Bachelor of Arts in English/Theatre.

Wise has more than 15 years of experience as an audio book narrator and instructor of acting and narration techniques. She has recorded more than 80 titles for the NLS program.

Wise is a classically trained stage actor and has appeared at the Shakespeare Theatre, the Folger Theatre, Ford's Theatre, Kennedy Center and Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company. Other credits include HBO's "The Wire" and "Veep."

Oklahoma Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

Services Circulation

	State FY-2012
Library Patrons	4,900
Books Circulated Daily to Patrons	906
Books Received Weekly by Patrons	4,530
Daily Inquiries	150

Federal Quota Funds (Previous School Year)

	State FY-2012
Children Eligible for Textbooks	781
Funding	$248,618

Accessible Instructional Materials (AIM) Center

	State FY-2012
Children Served	1,185
Average Days for a Child to Receive:	
In-House Book	1
Ordered Book - Braille	60
Ordered Book - Large Print	14
Total Books/Items in Collection	26,585
New Books Purchased - Braille	66
New Books Purchased - Large Print	542
Instructional Aids and Equipment *	2,314

*Books and instructional aids/equipment, such as talking globes and tactile maps, are ordered during one fiscal/school year and received the next fiscal/school year.

Visual Services

DRS' Visual Services provides services that make it possible for people who are blind, visually impaired or diabetic to reach their employment or life goals. Clients are provided the opportunity to become employed through the vocational rehabilitation process of career counseling, vocational education and training, medical services required to become employable, assistive technology geared to their specific needs and job placement.

Many clients receive individualized living skills training to allow them to navigate their environments, operate computers, manage money and their household and much more.

Clients are eligible for the vocational rehabilitation program if their disability makes it difficult to work. They must be able to benefit from vocational rehabilitation services, which are required to prepare for and find jobs.

The Business Enterprise Program trains and assists people who are blind in establishing and operating food service businesses in public and private facilities across the state. BEP equips locations, provides initial inventory and offers on-going technical support to licensed BEP entrepreneurs.

BEP entrepreneurs must complete vending facility training courses and must pay a percentage of net proceeds to DRS, which matches federal funds to support the program.

For our young adults with disabilities, we have the Transition: School to Work program that helps high school students prepare for the work world. Transition counselors provide advice and training that often include summer jobs or workshops that teach interview and resume writing.

The Older Blind Independent Living Services gives Oklahomans, 55 and older, the ability to remain independent after becoming visually impaired. The program teaches living skills with special magnifying equipment, talking gadgets and tips on staying safe when performing household duties.

The Oklahoma Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped is the source for talking books for those who cannot read the written word due to visual impairments or physical disabilities. The library mails thousands of free recorded books to patrons all across the state. The Accessible Instructional Material Center provides free braille textbooks and classroom materials to public school students.

Working Partnerships

DRS partners with many groups, organizations and companies across the state to provide the best possible services for our clients with disabilities. These partnerships are priceless and allow us to grow as an agency.

We have been an active partner in the Governor's Council for Workforce and Economic Development initiatives. DRS Executive Director Michael O'Brien has been personally involved in council meetings and on various committees.

Key staff are active members of the Workforce Solutions Staff Team. This team was formed to overcome barriers and better serve clients across state programs. Also, a DRS representative serves as a liaison on the State Youth Council. Specific results from these efforts include:

- Development of Workforce system standards was created to provide seamless services between regional partners.
- DRS local representatives are more involved in individual local Workforce Investment Board and Youth Council activities. Staff understand that their role is a key part of the workforce system.
- DRS actively participates as a co-located partner in several of the one-stop centers around the state.
- We are making progress on ensuring one-stop centers are accessible to all.
- DRS is pioneering work in the area of accommodations used in the Career Readiness Certification Process.

DRS also partners with the Office of Juvenile Affairs in a pilot project that outreaches to juvenile delinquent and youth offenders with disabilities at the Central Oklahoma Juvenile Center in Tecumseh, Okla. This project is a part of a multi-agency comprehensive effort to improve transitioning juveniles from custody to community-based on long-term study recommendations from OJA, Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth and the Department of Human Services.

Approximately 70 youth are housed at COJC at any given time. DRS has taken applications from 43 who have received services since the program's inception in June 2011. DRS counselors and the youth have developed individualized employment plans, which connect to the paid School to Work services program offered at the facility.

Due to the overwhelming success of this program, a second pilot project at the Southwest Oklahoma Juvenile Center in Manitou, Okla. will begin in late 2013.

The partnership between DRS and the Native American Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation programs provides the most culturally relevant services to Native Americans with disabilities to assist them in obtaining gainful employment.

DRS has cooperative agreements with nine tribal vocational rehabilitation programs. These agreements outline the manner in which DRS and the tribes will collaborate and coordinate service efforts to provide clients with the most beneficial and appropriate services.

These are only three of the many partnerships that this agency works with to better serve for our clients. We greatly appreciate all of our many partners who enhance and improve the lives of our citizens with disabilities.

ROI Return on Investment

A performance measure used to evaluate the efficiency of an investment. To calculate the ROI, the benefit of an investment is divided by the cost of the investment.

Rob Hill,

32 years on the job complete with retirement divided by a few services from DRS Visual Services for specialized computers and software upgrades equals quality of life, productive member of society and an Oklahoma taxpayer.

Retired

ROB HILL

Rob Hill is a former client of DRS' Visual Services division. He did his time in the workforce and claimed his prize — retirement. Hill has the degenerative eye disease retinitis pigmentosa, which cost him his sight in 1973. However, he didn't let that stop him from working full time for the last 32 years and doing community service and advocacy work for causes he strongly believes in along the way.

Hill, 67, retired on May 31, 2012 from 211 Helpline in the Community Service Council as a social worker in Tulsa. Along his path to retirement, Hill learned and experienced many things that a man with 20/20 vision wouldn't have even dreamed of doing.

He worked for DRS Visual Services in the early 1970s in Weatherford and volunteered at crisis hotline on the weekends in Tulsa. "It was a crisis line, reassurance line, kind of thing for those who may have gotten confused on drugs or suicide, that kind of thing. I was trained in that kind of work.

"I did that until 1981, they changed their function to be a strong information and referral service, combined with the crisis intervention stuff. I went on staff in 1981 as a service specialist, full-time paid employee.

"I needed to have some equipment to work with. I needed to have a way to make notes about the calls to keep statistics and that kind of thing," Hill said.

Knowing from working at DRS the types of services he was eligible for, Hill approached the agency and received equipment so he could do the job – a typewriter, a scanner text recognition device, braille writer and other tools.

"They enabled me to take that job and be successful with it. In addition to having cooperation from the staff to take my type-written notes and put them in the statistics format that we were using. They were very willing to accommodate me in that way."

Years later, the organization decided it was time to computerize the work. Hill again called on Visual Services.

"I got screen reading software so I could continue to do what I was doing."

For 32 years, Hill paid into the Social Security system instead of drawing from it. When asked why he worked when the government would have taken care of him, he said, "A monthly check gives you only the satisfaction of having an income. It doesn't give you the satisfaction of being a productive person."

"I needed to have some **equipment** to work with. I needed to have a way to make notes about the calls to keep statistics and that kind of thing. They (DRS) enabled me to take that **job** and be **successful** with it."

—Rob Hill, former client and successfully, retired taxpayer

DDD staff form the shape of Oklahoma. This division routinely finds itself in the **top of the nation** in accuracy and productivity for Social Security claims for Oklahoma and other states. This quality of work has given DDD the opportunity to grow the division and **employ** more than 325 Oklahomans.

Performance

Federal FY-2012

Budgeted Workload 84,710

Completed Workload 85,825

During this past fiscal year, DDD saw a decrease in new disability applications in Oklahoma.

	Federal FY-2012
Decision Accuracy Rate Oklahoma	94.8%
Decision Accuracy Rate National	96.3%
Processing Time (days)	87.7 days

The DDD strives to provide services in a timely manner, ending the FY with decrease of 3.6 days from 91.3.

DDD staff chose charitable organizations each year to support as a whole division and in their professional groups. The Oklahoma Association of Disability Examiners (OKADE) at DDD won the DRS agency Award of Merit for charitable activities.

Cooperative Disability Investigations Unit

	CDI Opened	SSA and Non-SSA Savings
FY 2011 (June-Sept. 2011)	72 cases	$4.5 million.
FY 2012 (Oct. 2011 – Sept. 2012)	175 cases	$16.9 million.

The group's service projects included collecting coats for KFOR's "Warmth for Winter" and food for the Regional Food Bank as part of Gov. Mary Fallin's campaign to end hunger in Oklahoma.

Pictured left are some of the group's members at the western-inspired awards program.

Disability Determination

The Disability Determination Division provides high quality, responsive service that meets, and often exceeds, Social Security, Oklahoma and community expectations and standards.

Staff work diligently and cooperatively to provide timely, accurate, well-documented Social Security Disability Insurance and Supplemental Security Income determinations for the citizens of the state of Oklahoma and the nation. Accuracy, timeliness and expert opinions are critical in the evaluation of all disability claims.

For each disability claim, a team of paraprofessionals, disability reviewers and medical or psychological consultants, review each applicant's medical and vocational evidence. The team decides whether applicants qualify as disabled or blind based on medical and vocational evidence according to federal guidelines. Children may qualify for SSI benefits and are evaluated based on their ability to perform age-appropriate activities as documented in their medical records.

DDD personnel understand that each Social Security claim is a person needing benefits to live. Therefore, timeliness and accuracy are crucial. Staff receives quality training and mentoring that focuses on accuracy, security, consistency and efficiency.

Oklahoma continues to be a national resource as an Extended Service Team site — one of only four in the country that assist other states with their backlog of disability claims. The EST's accuracy rate for FY 2012 was 98.7, ranking first in the nation — alongside the Delaware DDS.

On June 1, 2011, Oklahoma launched the Oklahoma City Cooperative Disability Investigations Unit. The CDI program is a joint effort consisting of staff from DDD, SSA, Office of the Oklahoma Attorney General and Social Security Administration Office of Inspector General to effectively pool resources for the purpose of preventing fraud in Social Security's SSDI and SSI disability programs and related federal and state programs.

The mission of the CDI program is to obtain evidence of material fact sufficient to resolve questions of fraud or similar fault in disability programs. CDI Units investigate individual disability claims and identify third parties who facilitate disability fraud.

Claims and post-entitlement actions are referred to the CDI Units by DDD examiners and SSA field office personnel who suspect fraudulent activity based on suspicious behavior or other indicators of high risk for fraud or similar fault. The investigation results are presented to the DDD staff for their use in making timely and accurate disability determinations and to federal and state prosecutors for consideration of prosecution.

Since inception, the CDI unit has saved 22.8 million in SSA and Non-SSA savings (Medicare and Medicaid) and opened 269 case investigations.

DDD is 100-percent federally funded. In 2001, DDD had 183 employees with a federal budget of $14.7 million. In 2012, the division grew to 328 employees with a federal budget of $37.8 million. Federal fiscal year 2012 was very challenging; however, their dedication and commitment led the DDD through another remarkable year, providing outstanding service to disability applicants in the State of Oklahoma.

Oklahoma School for the Blind School Census

Graduation Rate	100%
Residential Students	45
Day Students	40
Total Students Attending All or Part of the Year	85
Counties Served	36
Students with Multiple Disabilities	14
Teacher to Student Ratio	1 to 4
Direct Care Specialist to Student Ratio	1 to 6
Summer School Students	58
Days for Summer School	15

Oklahoma School for the Blind Outreach Program

Direct Services	1,690
Consultations and Evaluations	222
Services to Families	144
Services to Schools	223
Services to Organizations	918

Oklahoma School for the Deaf School Census

Graduation Rate	92.3%
Residential Students	93
Day Students	63
Total Students Attending All or Part of the Year	156
Counties Served	54
Students with Multiple Disabilities	3
Teacher to Student Ratio	1 to 6
Direct Care Specialist to Student Ratio	1 to 9
Summer School Students	76
Days for Summer School	10

Oklahoma School for the Deaf Outreach Program

Direct Services	46,063*
Consultations and Evaluations	3,087
Services to Families	21,233
Services to Schools	17,829
Services to Organizations	3,914

*Includes videos shipped to patrons nationwide by OSD's National Accessible Learning Center.

All data reported on the school year 2011-2012.

Excellence

Officials with the Oklahoma School for the Blind and Oklahoma School for the Deaf believe that a student's education begins with the textbook, but must also include a healthy and robust student life. It helps them to grow socially as well as academically.

In Oklahoma, football, whether you bleed crimson or orange, is almost a cultural pass-time that begins as early as elementary school. OSD kicked off it's "Make it Right!" football field and stadium fundraiser to replace their deteriorated stands, scoreboard and homemade goal posts with a field and stadium worthy of an Oklahoman.

Oklahoma School for the Blind

Students who attend the Oklahoma School for the Blind receive the education every young Oklahoman deserves. More importantly, they receive specialized training that enhances their ability to learn and later become a valuable part of Oklahoma's workforce.

Students who are visually impaired or blind learn to excel at OSB because school staff expect the students to do so. All state-mandated education requirements are taught at OSB. The school offers a comprehensive curriculum of reading, language arts, mathematics, social studies, science, physical education, music and computer science for residential and day students.

Specialized instruction includes braille, orientation and mobility, optimum use of low vision, adaptive equipment and technology and tactile graphic skills. This specialization is not readily available at every public school in the state.

Even though OSB is located in Muskogee, its boundaries are statewide. Regardless of the hometown, the school bus will pick the student up at no cost to the parents or guardians. Students who do not live close by and commute daily, live at the school during the week and return home for a three-day weekend.

OSB also has a Summer Enrichment Program for students who attend public schools during the regular school year but still need training specific to the visually impaired.

The school provides special events and activities to bring the public and students together. Each year, OSB hosts Future Shock where the high-school-aged students get to visit with workplace professionals and college recruiters to prepare the students for life after high school.

OSB provides thousands of free outreach service hours each year for students attending local public schools, their families and local school systems. Qualified staff offer free student evaluations, in-service training for teachers and recommendations for classroom modifications and special equipment that help students reach their full potential.

Oklahoma School for the Deaf

Oklahoma School for the Deaf is a public school with a Deaf specialty with no rival in the state. OSD educates students who are deaf or hard of hearing from any town in the state with the same curriculum and state-mandated requirements of all public schools.

OSD educators communicate directly with students using American Sign Language instead of through an interpreter. That means student and teacher interaction is direct and clear. Students interact with each other seamlessly because all the students learn ASL.

OSD offers students specialized courses designed to meet the students' unique communications needs and prepare them for life after graduation. This not only includes ASL training, but also the use of other adaptive technology beneficial to students who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Students who live close to the Sulphur campus can commute back and forth to school. Those from greater distances live at the school Monday thru Thursday and go home for three-day weekends free of charge. OSD serves students from infancy to 12th grade.

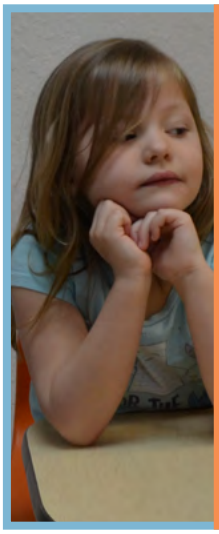
Students receive the full educational and social experiences that are available to most of Oklahoma's students. They perform in school programs and dramas. The have prom and homecoming for all sports. They compete with other schools on academic teams, sports teams and leadership programs.

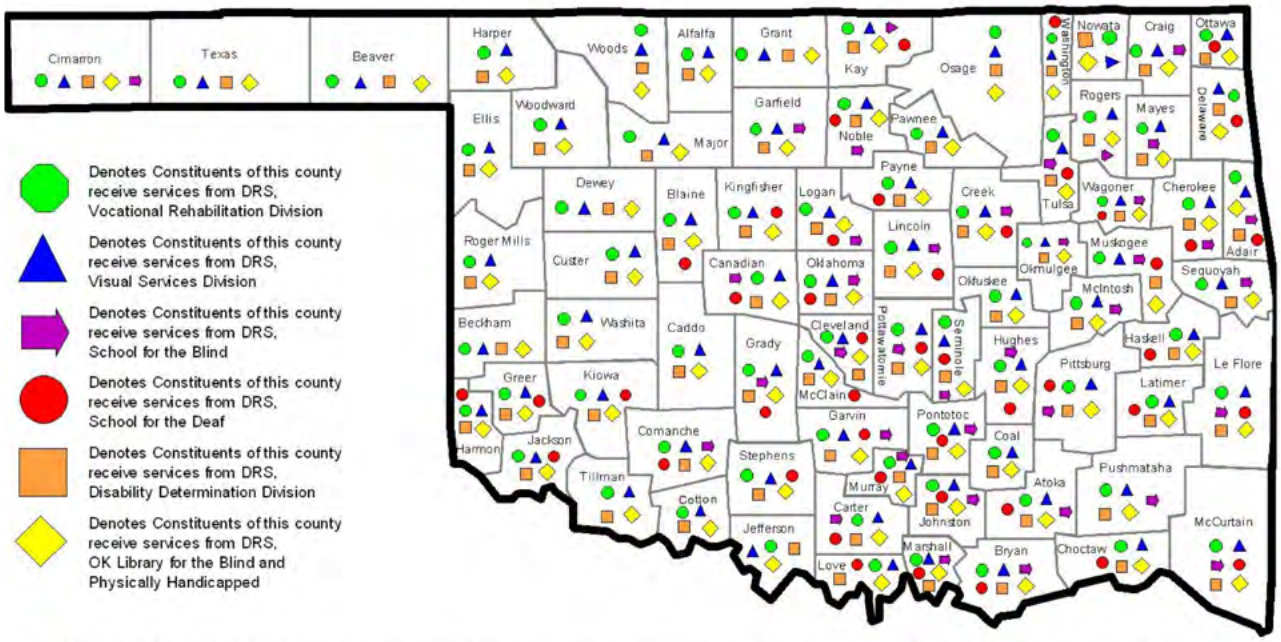
OSD's mighty Indians football team has come close to being the Great Plains Schools for the Deaf Champions three years in a row by earning second place in the nation. With such outstanding success in the past, OSD is expected to win a championship in the near future.

OSD has an expanded educational reach with two satellite preschools strategically placed throughout the state, one at the University of Central Oklahoma in Edmond and one at the University of Arts and Sciences of Oklahoma in Chickasha. These satellite preschools help to keep children at home during their early childhood years and provide the needed education in communication that is critical for the young students.

The school is also active in the community, which includes adults who are deaf or hard of hearing. The Equipment Distribution Program provides adaptive equipment for telephone and communication access for those of any age. Also, the Hearing Aid Program for senior adults provides assistance for those needing hearing aids who meet eligibility guidelines.

OSD hosted a number of events geared to the Deaf community as a whole or to foster a better understanding of the Deaf and hard of hearing.





92,070 Oklahoma constituents were served by DRS during State Fiscal Year 12 (July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012).

County	Vocational Rehabilitation	Visual Services	"School for the Blind"	"School for the Deaf"	Disability Determination	"OK Library for the Blind"	Total by County
Adair	59	12	3	1	598	26	699
Alfalfa	34	6	0	0	53	20	113
Atoka	81	11	2	2	322	18	436
Beaver	8	4	0	0	52	5	69
Beckham	108	25	0	0	402	30	565
Blaine	21	13	0	1	156	22	213
Bryan	205	51	2	3	1,090	43	1,394
Caddo	133	30	0	0	674	30	867
Canadian	245	50	3	2	965	153	1,418
Carter	167	66	5	16	1,248	74	1,576
Cherokee	137	61	6	2	881	49	1,136
Choctaw	104	10	0	1	545	31	691
Cimarron	1	2	1	0	34	7	45
Cleveland	613	109	5	4	2,425	320	3,476
Coal	63	6	0	0	149	5	223
Comanche	448	79	7	6	2,369	150	3,059
Cotton	19	2	0	0	103	12	136
Craig	69	5	3	0	397	25	499
Creek	265	53	2	1	1,319	103	1,743
Custer	131	29	0	0	398	54	612
Delaware	84	20	0	1	811	54	970
Dewey	17	5	0	0	61	10	93
Ellis	17	2	0	0	40	8	67
Garfield	176	56	3	0	1,088	107	1,430
Garvin	164	26	3	4	680	46	923
Grady	182	35	1	2	843	75	1,138
Grant	9	7	0	0	51	10	77
Greer	44	2	0	1	118	25	190
Harmon	22	1	0	1	85	6	115

County	Vocational Rehabilitation	Visual Services	"School for the Blind"	"School for the Deaf"	Disability Determination	"OK Library for the Blind"	Total by County
Harper	22	4	0	0	38	6	70
Haskell	83	15	0	1	360	17	476
Hughes	100	11	2	2	303	19	437
Jackson	132	10	0	1	506	37	686
Jefferson	16	1	0	0	146	9	172
Johnston	35	12	2	2	585	11	647
Kay	166	32	6	3	829	75	1,111
Kingfisher	18	11	0	1	148	33	211
Kiowa	57	5	0	1	225	26	314
Latimer	61	11	0	2	192	20	286
LeFlore	169	35	3	4	1,154	56	1,421
Lincoln	108	10	3	1	581	51	754
Logan	103	14	2	1	433	56	609
Love	21	9	0	1	214	15	260
McClain	92	21	0	4	557	53	727
McCurtain	100	21	2	2	857	48	1,030
McIntosh	79	18	4	0	517	34	652
Major	43	8	0	0	70	10	131
Marshall	60	19	1	6	441	27	554
Mayes	152	47	9	0	800	44	1,052
Murray	70	15	18	25	260	21	409
Muskogee	466	136	35	2	1,939	122	2,700
Noble	33	8	5	1	162	19	228
Nowata	51	7	0	0	181	16	255
Okfuskee	59	3	0	0	292	17	371
Oklahoma	3,210	429	21	42	14,075	1,059	18,836
Okmulgee	237	62	10	0	968	65	1,342
Osage	130	14	0	0	663	70	877
Ottawa	72	23	0	1	896	52	1,044
Pawnee	73	11	0	0	349	34	467
Payne	273	47	0	1	1,013	89	1,423
Pittsburg	310	45	13	3	1,124	57	1,552
Pontotoc	241	78	1	11	789	65	1,185
Pottawatomie	218	54	6	6	1,653	102	2,039
Pushmataha	124	11	1	0	301	18	455
Roger Mills	11	5	0	0	38	7	61
Rogers	337	45	1	0	1,091	106	1,580
Seminole	57	21	3	3	628	29	741
Sequoyah	268	63	8	0	1,193	59	1,591
Stephens	85	19	0	5	862	67	1,038
Texas	16	8	0	0	151	10	185
Tillman	26	4	0	0	180	9	219
Tulsa	2,563	547	35	21	11,001	834	15,001
Wagoner	119	57	8	3	645	52	884
Washington	132	29	0	1	844	72	1,078
Washita	66	8	0	0	170	16	260
Woods	60	11	0	0	91	21	183
Woodward	64	27	0	0	241	25	357
Out of State	117	19	0	0	0	0	136
Total by Program:	14,731	2,898	245	205	68,713	5,278	92,070

RICHELLE ZAMPELLA

"oakenshaw" "symmetrical"

OSB Student Represented Oklahoma in National Spelling Bee in Washington DC

Richelle Zampella, fifth Grader at OSB, competed against 277 other students in the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C. Zampella correctly spelled "oakenshaw" in the second round, and "symmetrical" in the third round; however, she was eliminated along with well over a dozen other students after a computer test. She was given her test orally. This was her first trip to the Scripps National Spelling Bee.

Zampella reads Braille and has also learned to use the slate and stylus and the abacus. She likes to participate in Braille Challenge competitions and school activities. She has won first place in the school braille test competition for four semesters, and she has been a national finalist in the Braille Institute's Braille Challenge. She is an honor roll student and was the student of the year at school for the past two years. Her interests include reading, listening to music and swimming. She loves to spend time with her family and hopes to become a teacher for the visually impaired.