APH Products and Services
for the
California Transcribers and Educators for the Blind and Visually Impaired (CTEBVI)
2023 Conference

AMERICAN PRINTING HOUSE

Braille Solutions

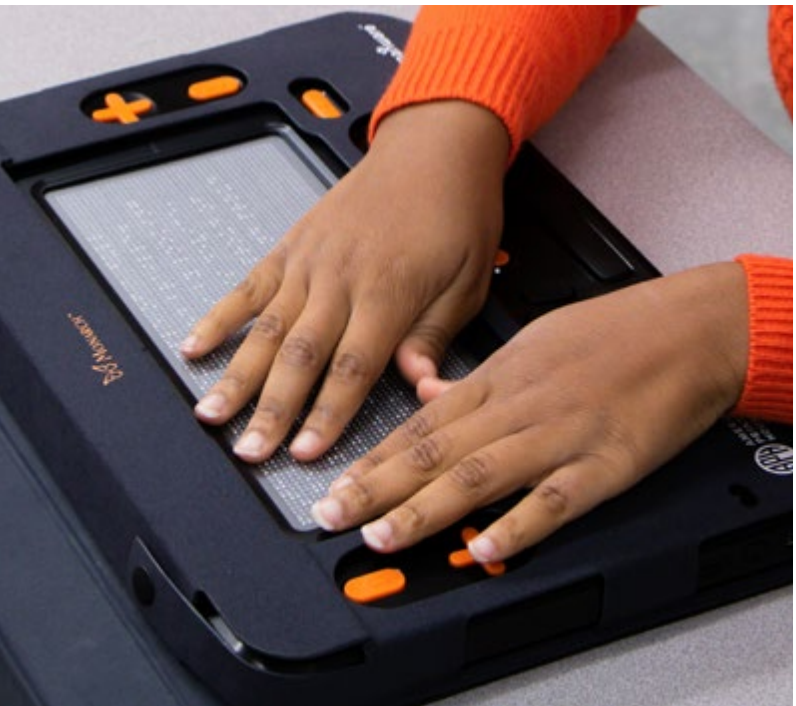
Monarch™

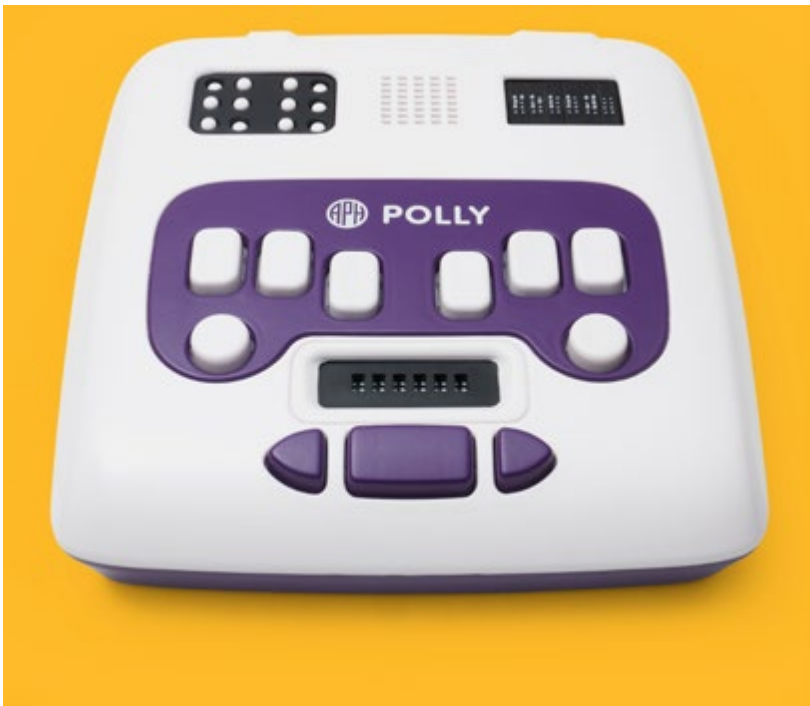
APH, HumanWare, and NFB have partnered to develop the Monarch, formally referred to as the DTD, a self-contained standalone tactile tablet capable of running a multitude of apps optimized for enhancing the efficiency of a blind or low vision user. This device will also be capable of rendering multiple lines of braille and tactile graphics on the same tactile surface, which in turn will skyrocket braille literacy, efficiency, and accessibility. This tool will help level the playing field for students, enabling them to receive braille instructional materials at the touch of a download button instead of waiting weeks or months for embossed braille textbooks to be transcribed and shipped. To receive the latest announcements regarding APH's Monarch, please sign up for our Mailing List.

In addition to running its own apps, APH and HumanWare will be working with strategic partners to utilize an SDK being developed, beginning in 2Ø24 to create apps and experiences we haven't yet thought of. If your organization is interested in developing for this exciting tool, please contact the team at DTD@aph.org.

Polly

Created in partnership with ThinkerBell Labs, Polly is an electronic Wi-Fi enabled braille learning device that teaches reading, typing, writing, vocabulary, and spelling in both contracted and uncontracted braille. This





device includes a Perkins-style keyboard, an electronic slate, a speaker for instruction and feedback, and an online teacher portal that allows remote access and progress monitoring for educators/parents. Stay in the loop about all things Polly, by joining our Wait List – be the first to know when Polly is available for purchase!

Mantis™ Q40

No longer choose between a keyboard or a braille display! The Mantis Q40 has a refreshable braille display of 40-cells below its full QWERTY keyboard, providing the convenience of a keyboard with the precision of braille. Connect other devices via USB or Bluetooth®, or use the Mantis by itself to read books, edit and manage files, check the date and time, and make basic mathematical calculations.

Chameleon™ 20

Developed specifically for education, with students in mind, the Chameleon 20's 20-cell refreshable braille display and Perkins-style keyboard provides a comfortable reading and writing experience. Use as a stand-alone notetaker, or as a braille display to edit assignments on the computer. 2.0 Software Update includes text-to-speech (TTS) in English and Spanish!

View our Refreshable Braille Comparison Chart to find out which refreshable braille display is right for you.

BrailleBlaster™

BrailleBlaster is a free transcription program developed by APH. This software allows transcribers the ability to provide students with low vision or vision loss with braille textbooks on the first day of class. Download BrailleBlaster for free today!

Building on Patterns (BOP) Prekindergarten

This curriculum is a comprehensive program that builds literacy skills related to listening, speaking, reading, and writing in preparation for

Braille Solutions

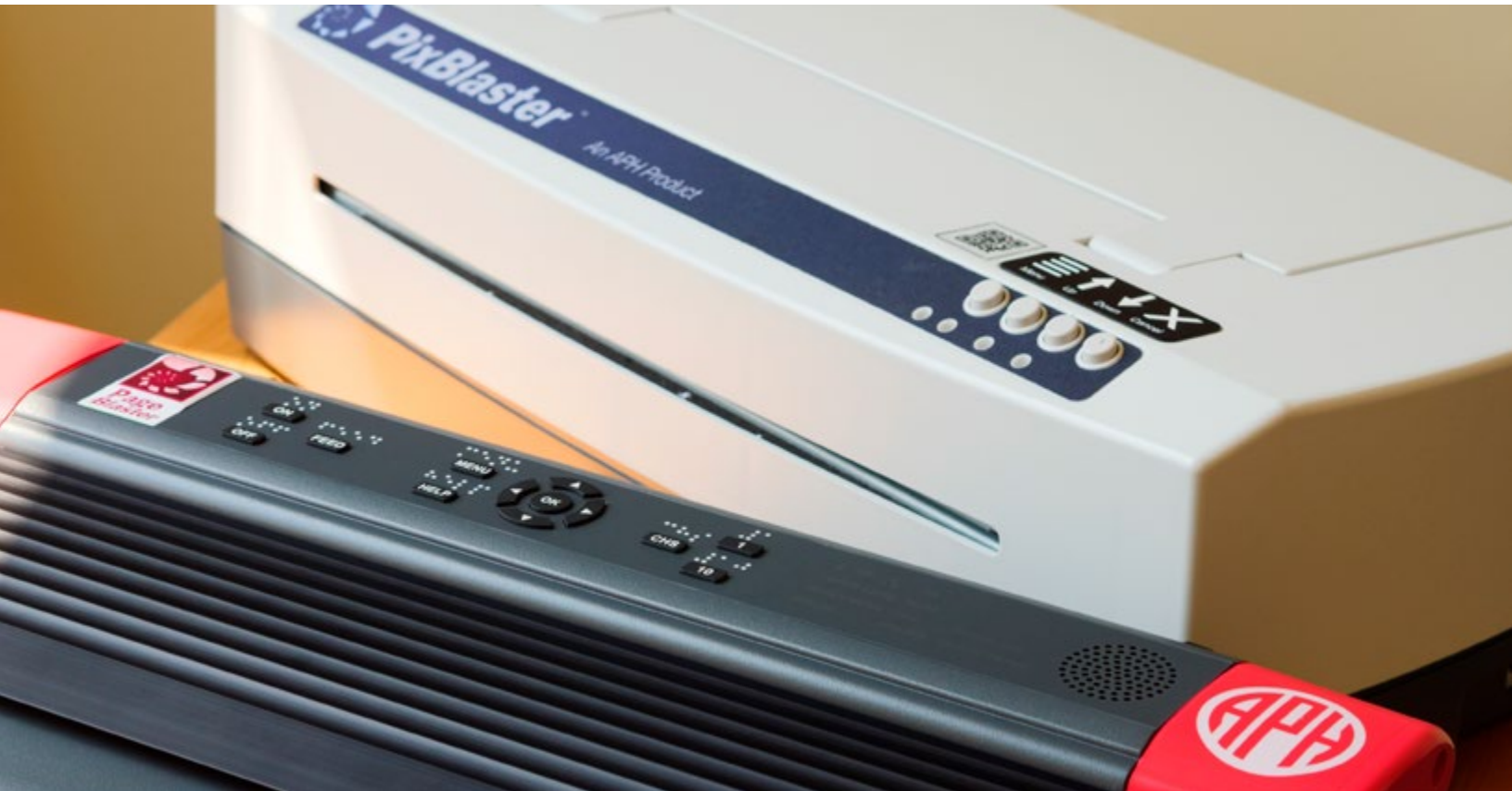
kindergarten. It incorporates the unique needs of young braille learners throughout the lessons. BOP Pre-K may be used as a stand-alone program or more flexibly along with the regular preschool curriculum.

PageBlaster™

APH and HumanWare have partnered to produce a portable and powerful braille embosser with a tractor-fed design that provides smooth paper handling and produces double-sided interpoint braille. Use PageBlaster to emboss PRN files from APH's Tactile Graphics Image Library or create your own using the included Firebird tactile graphics software.

PixBlaster™

The PixBlaster combines tactile graphics with braille text. This embosser allows users to easily produce double-sided interpoint braille with smooth, rounded dots for improved readability along with industry-leading, high-quality tactile graphics with seven variable dot heights for color representation. Connect to Wi-Fi to translate and emboss documents on the fly from your computer or mobile device using the included PIXie box.



Educational Products

Accessible Code & Go® Robot Mouse

The Accessible Code & Go Mouse provides a hands-on introduction to coding concepts and tactile graphics as students program Colby the mouse to race through the maze toward the cheese. Students will learn problem-solving, critical thinking, if-then logic, O&M skills, route planning, and much more.

Submersible Audio Light Sensor (SALS)

This device makes science activities more accessible than ever! SALS has a plastic-covered glass tube with a rectangular box on one end. The tip of the glass tube detects light, and the box converts light to a tone and sends the signal to an app (compatible with an iOS® or Android® device and MATT Connect™). Changes in tone notify the user that a chemical reaction has taken place or can help them identify objects of different colors or shades of gray.

CVI Companion Guide

Designed to assist parents and professionals, the CVI Companion Guide provides information on recent research surrounding the impact of brain injury on vision and its implications on social and emotional needs of children with CVI. This text also delves into documenting a child's current level of functioning with their CVI diagnosis and organizing a plan to work on skills needed to function in everyday activities.

Hop-a-Dot Mat

With Hop-a-Dot Mat, students can learn braille while being physically involved and active – an exciting alternative to routine, sedentary tasks. Hop-a-Dot Mat encourages young braille readers to acquire and demonstrate their knowledge of the braille cell configuration, braille alphabet letters, one-cell contractions, and numbers through movement.

Books

The Caterpillar

Initially produced in 1993, The Caterpillar, an On the Way to Literacy (OTWL) series classic now contains a completely rewritten text with exciting tactile illustrations containing textures and objects rather than the raised line drawings used in the original book. In addition, the new text has received colorful and enhanced visual illustrations, an updated illustrated cover, and a binding instead of a ring binder. This read-aloud tactile storybook with large print/braille text (contracted UEB) is designed to assist young children in developing key literacy skills such as listening comprehension, phonological awareness, oral language, and object/shape recognition.

A Tail for Baby Lizard

Adventure alongside Baby Lizard in this colorful and tactile story book as he searches for a suitable replacement tail after losing his own. As readers progress through the story, various tails are presented to Baby Lizard with the original owner of the tail shown immediately after. Upon conclusion, Baby Lizard will have picked out his new tail. A Tail for Baby Lizard is produced for APH by the award-winning French tactile book publisher, Les Doigts Qui Rêvent (LDQR).

How to Recognize a Monster

Learn how to recognize a monster by discovering its funny and bizarre body! This LDQR tactile storybook uses tactile illustrations that can be manipulated to help the reader recognize a monster. Each illustration features a different part of the monster's body. A sequential discovery takes place throughout the book, with a complete representation of the monster at the conclusion.

APH Press

The APH Press carries on the legacy of AFB Press as the leading publisher in the field of blindness and visual impairment. APH Press publishes educational content, including textbooks for teacher preparatory programs, in the field of blindness and visual impairment to support teachers, families, and other professionals. Recent releases include:

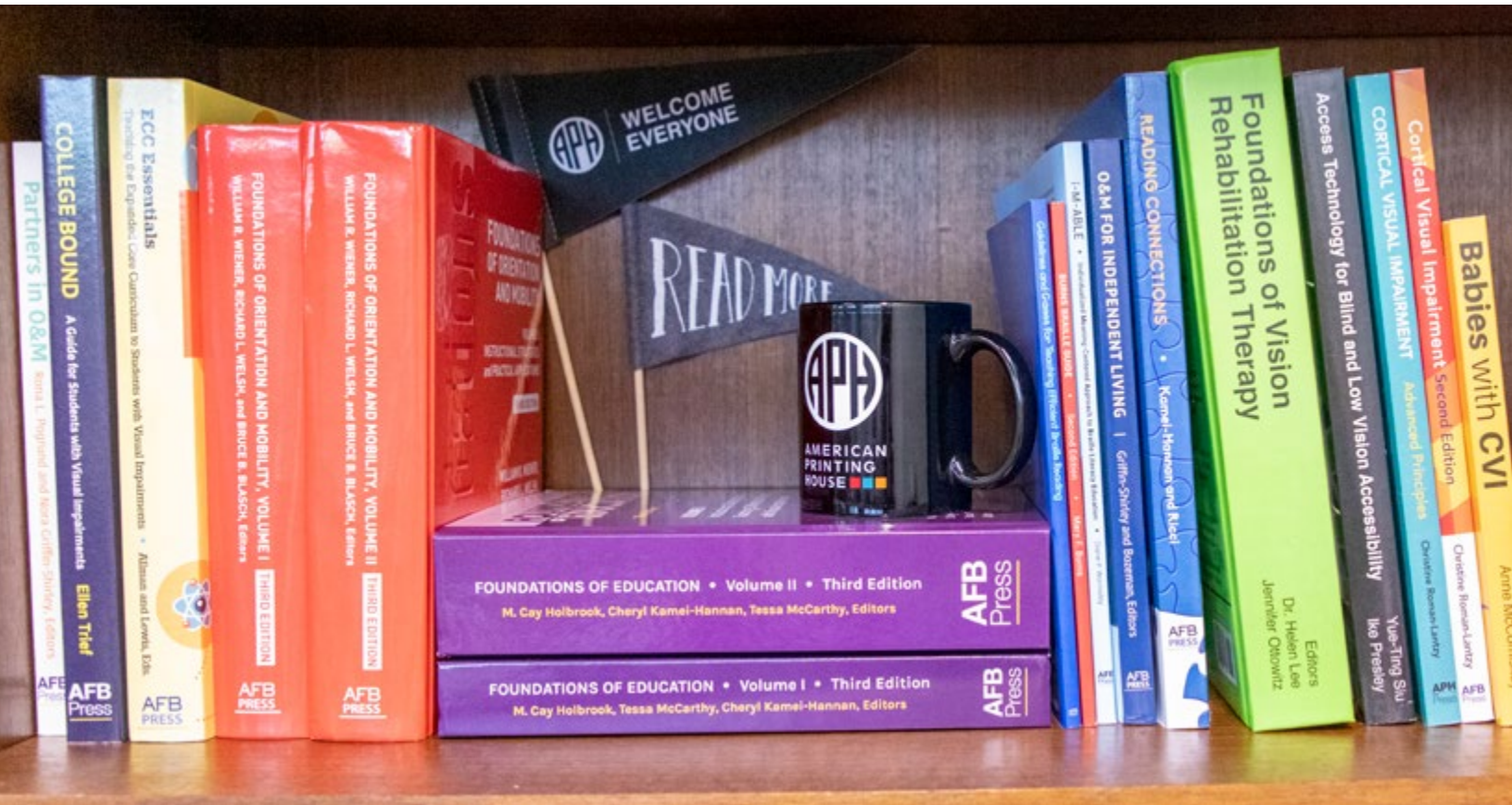
- Guidelines and Games for Teaching Efficient Braille Reading is based on research in the areas of rapid reading and precision teaching. This second edition serves as an invaluable resource to both supplement and enrich early braille instruction for parents and teachers of those who are blind or visually impaired. The activities and games presented in the book enhance the traditional teaching of braille reading skills from the preschool level through Grade 3. The book was updated to reflect advances in technology that have made braille more accessible in a digital format, such as refreshable braille devices, digital notetakers, and translation software. The writers have also incorporated new research on teaching braille literacy, as well as current best practices for teachers of students with visual impairments
- Access Technology for Blind and Low vision Accessibility emphasizes opportunities for independence, leadership, and timely access to information for people who are blind or low vision. Access Technology is a follow-up to the 2ØØ8 edition edition that gives an overview of currently available technologies and tools and presents a new process for technology evaluation that ensures every student is supported to build the toolbox they need to break down barriers to access. Rather than using pre-determined checklists to evaluate technology skills, authors Yue-Ting Siu and Ike Presley present an inquiry-based approach for identifying needs related to individual instruction, advocacy for accessible formats, and how to achieve equity in information-rich environments.

APH Press

- Beginning with Braille: Firsthand Experiences with a Balanced Approach to Literacy includes creative and practical strategies for designing and delivering quality braille instruction and offers teacher-friendly suggestions for many areas, such as reading aloud to young children, selecting and making early tactile books, and teaching tactile and hand movement skills. This text also addresses guidelines for individualizing instruction, the literacy needs of students with additional disabilities, and assessment of student progress in developing literacy skills.
- Burns Braille Guide: A Quick Reference to Unified English Braille is a revised and updated edition of The Burns Braille Transcription Dictionary that reflects the range of changes introduced in the transition from English Braille American Edition (EBAE) to UEB. This easy-to-use reference guide includes braille-to-print conversions; print-to-braille conversions; punctuation, symbols, and indicators; new UEB contractions; general rules and terminology; and short forms list.
- Reading Connections: Strategies for Teaching Students with Visual Impairments is an in-depth and user-friendly guide for understanding reading instruction for teachers and professionals seeking to improve the reading skills of their students who are visually impaired. This text addresses on detail the essential components of reading–phonemic awareness, phonics, reading fluency, vocabulary, and reading comprehension, as well as other key reading components and subskills.
- I-M-ABLE: Individualized Meaning-Centered Approach to Braille Literacy Education is an innovative, individualized, student-centered method for teaching braille and making it exciting for students who have difficulties learning braille. Instruction in this text is centered on continuously analyzing the strengths and needs of students, placing emphasis on engaging them using key vocabulary words and phrases based on their experiences and interests.

APH Press

- ECC Essentials: Teaching the Expanded Core Curriculum to Students with Visual Impairments is the first comprehensive book for teachers of students with visual impairments to focus on the nine areas of the Expanded Core Curriculum (ECC) that encompass the unique skills children and adolescents with visual impairments need to learn to access the core educational curriculum and become independent individuals, by providing the rationale, suggestions, and strategies necessary to implement instruction.



Services/Resources

Tactile Graphic Image Library (TGIL)

A tactile graphic is a representation of pictorial information, specifically designed for reading with fingertips, utilizing raised lines, textures, shapes, and braille labels. The purpose of a tactile illustration is to communicate an idea or information in a manner readily comprehensible to a braille reader. They are used to convey non-textual information (such as graphs, maps, and diagrams), vital for a complete and well-rounded learning experience—not to replicate a raised photocopy. Tactile graphics encourage critical thinking skills as learners read the data, interpret the data, and extend their insight beyond the data in a manner that only spatial representation can afford.

TGIL, created by the American Printing House for the Blind, is a FREE online database that provides access to a wide variety of image templates. Over 2,000+ editable images can be found in categories that follow the core and expanded core curriculum. Each graphic can be adapted to fit educational goals and make it readable in the tactile medium chosen.

Register today and explore our image library!

National Instructional Materials Access Center (NIMAC)

The NIMAC was created by IDEA 2004 to assist states in the timely delivery of accessible formats when students are unable to utilize the textbook format being used in the classroom. The NIMAC provides access to over 66,000 source files for K-12 instructional materials. These files are used to produce formats such as braille, large print, digital audio, and digital text when students with visual impairments or print disabilities are not able to use the printed textbook (or in some cases the digital format) used in class.

The file format received by the NIMAC from publishers is the National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standard, or NIMAS. NIMAS is considered a “source file” format because it is intended to be converted into another format before use by the student (NIMAS files themselves are not appropriate for distribution directly to students). All 50 states

and the six eligible outlying areas work with the NIMAC. Each state names authorized users who can download files or assign files for download by accessible media producers, such as APH. Once produced, the accessible materials can be distributed to any number of eligible students.

Under IDEA 2004, the only mechanism for requiring that publishers send files to the NIMAC is the adoption contract or purchase agreement for the instructional material. For this reason, it's essential to the success of the NIMAC that states and districts always include the NIMAS requirement in their contracts when they purchase new programs. For more information and sample contract language, please visit the National AEM Center's website. To learn more about how your state works with the NIMAC, get in touch with your NIMAC State Coordinator.

We encourage you to reach out to us with any questions, or for more information, via email at nimac@aph.org, or call 877-526-4622.

Louis Database

The Louis Database contains information on over 200,000 accessible materials produced by organizations throughout the United States and Canada, in addition to a unified search of Louis, NIMAC, Bookshare, and Learning Ally. A wide range of educational and recreational materials are available in braille, large print, audio, and electronic file formats. There are close to 10,000 textbook files ready to download from the APH File Repository, which contains student-ready electronic files in both braille and large print formats.

Services/Resources

Welcome to the APH ConnectCenter! This website offers FREE curated advice and resources to assist children, parents, adults, and job seekers who are blind or low vision, and their associated professionals. Through this website, you are able to access these ConnectCenter resources and much more:

- FamilyConnect: Offers support and resources for families of children who are blind or low vision.
- CareerConnect: Employment information, tools, and guidance for job seekers who are blind or low vision.
- VisionAware: Designed for adults and seniors who are living with vision loss.
- ConnectCalendar: For use by the entire blindness field to find and promote events, all in one place. Promote and share your organization's event by adding it to the Calendar or discover upcoming events.
- APH ConnectCenter Transition Hub: Planning for graduation and life after school brings up a lot of questions. Find information about transition programs that emphasize empowerment, career exploration, and work experiences for teens and young adults who are blind or low vision.

Have questions related to blindness or vision loss? Call APH's Information & Referral Hotline: (800) 232-5463 or e-mail us at connectcenter@aph.org.

Services/Resources

APH Hive

Buzz over to the APH Hive, APH's FREE eLearning platform for educators and families that can be accessed at any time from the comfort of your home or office. With a growing course catalog covering categories like Early Childhood, Expanded Core Curriculum, and more, we want to give you the tools you need to support students. All you have to do is sign up, watch the course content at your leisure, and complete the follow up assignment to get your certificate for ACVREP credit! Register and get started today.

Outreach Services

APH's Outreach Services team strives to increase awareness about the many resources and services offered by APH. These include, but are not limited to, the following: distance learning and statewide/nationwide training opportunities; exhibits and presentations at regional, statewide, and national conferences; expanded core curriculum academies/ professional learning communities, and parent and family training opportunities. Outreach Services consists of three branches:

- Outreach Specialists for regional support.
- APH Hive for professional development.
- Census for the federal quota program.

APH continues to expand its reach through our strategically placed Regional Specialists. Regional Specialists meet the unique needs of EOTs, professionals, families, and other service providers working with students who are blind or low vision by providing tailored support to communities. These experienced professionals are charged with sharing craft knowledge across the field, building local networks of support, assisting with APH products and services, and facilitating solutions. Regional Specialists are available to provide support at conferences, regional Braille Challenges, colleges/universities, public and private schools, rehabilitation centers and more.

For additional information, please contact us at outreach@aph.org.

Thank You for Supporting APH

As a not-for-profit, 501(c)(3) organization, APH values our thoughtful, informed donors who ensure that we are able to serve a growing population of people of all ages who are blind or low vision – across the nation and around the world. Our programs, initiatives, services, and products empower people with vision loss to live as independently as possible. Your contribution makes that happen. You are a part of the APH community – and we are truly grateful for your partnership. Please donate at **bit.ly/donateaph** or contact the APH Development Department by phone at 502-899-2351 or email at **development@aph.org**.

American Printing House for the Blind, Inc.
1839 Frankfort Ave. • Louisville, KY 40206
502-895-2405 • 800-223-1839 • aph.org