



**AT & Computer Trainings / Tutorials / Podcasts  
Information Compiled by  
The Talking Book Program's  
Disability Information & Referral Center  
800-252-9605 / [www.TexasTalkingBooks.org](http://www.TexasTalkingBooks.org)**

**This fact sheet provides information on organizations and individuals who provide assistive technology and computer technical assistance and training. Services included within are not part of the Texas Talking Book Program or the Disability Information and Referral Center and their listing do not imply endorsement.**

**National Resources:**

Access Technology Institute  
520-300-7859

[www.blind.training](http://www.blind.training)

Offers online training, both fee-based and free, on Windows, Outlook, Excel, and other programs

Also offers trainer certification courses

Accessible Technology Coalition

<http://atcoalition.org/>

Articles and training on accessibility for people with disabilities.

American Foundation for the Blind (AFB) AccessWorld

[www.afb.org/aw/main.asp](http://www.afb.org/aw/main.asp)

A monthly e-zine about technology and low vision / blindness

American Printing House for the Blind

800-223-1839

[www.aph.org](http://www.aph.org)

Sells computer tutorials

Call for information on specific titles and prices.

Assistive Technology Blog

[www.bdmtech.blogspot.com/](http://www.bdmtech.blogspot.com/)

Also features a podcast available on I-tunes.

## Blind Access Training

877-774-7670

<http://blindaccesstraining.com/>

Offers classes in screen readers, office applications, i-devices, and scanning software

Group and individual classes available

Eligible individuals include people with vision impairments, family members, and professionals. Training is provided at an hourly rate of \$29.99, or by purchasing a course. Training is offered by telephone, Skype, or online.

## Carroll Tech / Carroll Center for the Blind, Newton, MA

[www.carrolltech.org/](http://www.carrolltech.org/)

Offers both self-paced and instructor-led online courses

Some of the classes are designed for computer teachers and some for persons learning to use a computer. There are general classes in learning basic programs, and more advanced classes such as learning Duxbury Braille and Braille graphics programs. Some courses are free, but most have a cost. Registration is required, and interested persons have to pass a 50 question basic skills exam. Classes are available nationwide, not limited to Massachusetts residents.

## CAVI (Cisco Academy for the Visually Impaired)

914-620-2284

[www.cavittraining.com/](http://www.cavittraining.com/)

Online technology school for persons who are vision impaired. Classes range from intro to computers to more advanced topics such as hardware and software systems, troubleshooting, and repair. Classes are \$150 for individuals and \$500 for organizations. Applications and a brief phone - interview are required.

## Cool Blind Tech

[www.coolblindtech.com/category/shows/](http://www.coolblindtech.com/category/shows/)

News and podcasts

## Fedora Outlier

888-958-6979

[www.fedoraoutlier.com/](http://www.fedoraoutlier.com/)

This is a consulting firm based in Atlanta, Georgia that provides assistive technology consulting, teaching and support to the blindness rehabilitation

industry on Apple devices and Macintosh computers. Group classes are conducted on site, but one-on-one assistance is available by phone, Skype, or chat.

Flying-Blind website:

[www.flying-blind.com](http://www.flying-blind.com)

Features news and information about assistive technology, as well as periodic podcasts

An e-mail newsletter called Top Tech Tidbits is also available

Hadley School for the Blind:

800-323-4238

[www.hadley.edu](http://www.hadley.edu)

Offers online courses in assistive technology, Internet, Excel, and word processing

All classes through Hadley are free

Indiana Adaptive Technology Project

<http://eastersealstech.com/>

Offers many in-state services

Site also features links to various podcasts

Lighthouses for the Blind:

[www.sightlossolutions.org/LighthousesForTheBlind.html](http://www.sightlossolutions.org/LighthousesForTheBlind.html)

Not all lighthouses for the blind offer computer classes, but some do. Some provide free classes, while others charge a fee. This is not an exhaustive list. Information on specific lighthouses in Texas is provided below (refer to pages 8-9). This site was last updated in August of 2013.

Microsoft Accessibility Technical Support

800-936-5900

<http://support.microsoft.com/answerdesk/accessibility>

Agents are available to assist people with disabilities who need help with screen readers, screen magnifiers, and speech recognition programs. Chat function available as well.

Microsoft: Accessibility Tutorials

[www.microsoft.com/enable/training/default.aspx](http://www.microsoft.com/enable/training/default.aspx)

Offers free online tutorials on the accessibility options of Windows, Office, and Internet programs. Here the word “tutorial” is used more loosely; basically these are more like “help” pages.

National Library Service (NLS):

888-657-7323

[www.loc.gov/nls/](http://www.loc.gov/nls/)

The National Library Service maintains regional and sub-regional libraries in every state, plus in the US territories of Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. The purpose of the National Library Service is to provide books, magazines, and other reading material in alternative formats to individuals with visual, learning, and physical disabilities. Some libraries also provide computer and assistive technology training and demonstrations. Call the phone number listed above to be connected to an NLS library near you, or use the link to search by state for regional and sub-regional libraries.

Restrictions may apply, such as classes only available for National Library Service patrons. A National Library Service FAQ, which outlines eligibility requirements, is available here: [www.loc.gov/nls/faq.html](http://www.loc.gov/nls/faq.html)

National Braille Press:

888-965-8965

[www.nbp.org](http://www.nbp.org)

Materials available in Braille, on CD-ROM, and by download

Call for specific titles and prices

National Federation of the Blind

International Braille and Technology Center

410-659-9314 ext. 5 (leave a message)

<https://nfb.org/ibtc1>

Offers telephone consultations for questions about assistive technology and adaptive software for computers.

SeroTalk

<http://serotalk.com/>

Features podcasts and an interactive blog

Very basic online tutorial (print is fairly large):

<http://tech.tln.lib.mi.us/tutor/>

Teaches someone how to use a mouse, scroll, type in a text box, etc.

## **Texas Resources:**

### **Organizations:**

Independent Living Centers:

<http://txsilc.org/index.php/en/centers.html>

Able Center (Odessa): 432-580-3439,  
<http://ablecenterpb.org/default.aspx> - computer classes for beginners

ARCIL (Austin): 512-832-6349, [www.arcil.com](http://www.arcil.com) - computer classes as part of independent living and life skills training

Satellite offices:

Round Rock: 512-828-4624,

[www.arcil.com/index.php/locations/arcil-round-rock](http://www.arcil.com/index.php/locations/arcil-round-rock)

San Marcos: 512-396-5790

[www.arcil.com/index.php/locations/arcil-san-marcos](http://www.arcil.com/index.php/locations/arcil-san-marcos)

Brazos Valley Center for Independent Living (Bryan): 979-776-5505,  
<http://bv cil.org> – TATP AT demonstration site (see below)

Coastal Bend Center for Independent Living (Corpus Christi): 361-883-8461, [www.cb cil.org](http://www.cb cil.org) – assistive technology training as part of an independent living skills training program – TATP AT demonstration site (see below)

Crockett Resource Center for Independent Living: 936-544-2811,  
[www.crockettresourcecenter.org/](http://www.crockettresourcecenter.org/) - offer basic computer training

Satellite office:

Palestine: 903-729-7505, [www.palestineresourcecenter.org/](http://www.palestineresourcecenter.org/) -

Offers training for Microsoft Word and Excel, as well as Internet use

Palestine is also a TATP AT demonstration site (see below)

Disability in Action (Abilene): 325-672-5460

<http://disabilityinaction.org>

TATP AT demonstration site (see below)

East Texas Center for Independent Living (Tyler): 903-581-7542,

[www.etcil.org](http://www.etcil.org) – assistive technology training as part of an independent

living skills training program - TATP computer demonstration site (see below)

Heart of Texas Independent Living Center (Belton): 254-933-7487, [www.hoctlc.org](http://www.hoctlc.org) – Computer and assistive technology training - TATP portable computer demonstration site (see below)

Satellite office:

Waco: 254-754-7050

Houston Center for Independent Living (HCIL): 713-974-4621, [www.coalitionforbarrierfreeliving.com/](http://www.coalitionforbarrierfreeliving.com/) - computer and AT demonstrations, basic computer skills – TATP portable computer demonstration site (see below)

Satellite offices:

Angleton (Brazoria County): 979-849-7060 – TATP computer demonstration site (see below)

Sugar Land (Fort Bend County): 281-980-2219

Life / Run (Lubbock): 806-795-5433, [www.liferun.org](http://www.liferun.org) - basic computer skills training

Mounting Horizons Center for Independent Living (Galveston): 409-356-4809, <http://mhcil.org/> - Classes in basic computing, and applications such as documents and spreadsheets

Panhandle ILC (Amarillo): 806-374-1400, [www.panhandleilc.org/](http://www.panhandleilc.org/) - computer lab available to learn or improve computer skills and receive training in adaptive software

REACH of Dallas: 214-630-4796, [www.reachcils.org/](http://www.reachcils.org/) - computer lab available to learn or improve computer skills

Satellite offices:

Denton: 940-383-1062

Fort Worth: 817-870-9082

Plano: 972-398-1111 – TATP portable computer demonstration site (see below)

RISE (Beaumont): 409-832-2599, [www.risecil.org](http://www.risecil.org) - computer classes available, TATP computer demonstration site (see below)

VAIL Valley Association for Independent Living (McAllen): 956-668-8245,  
<http://vailrgv.org/> - TATP portable computer demonstration site (see below)

VOLAR (El Paso): 915-591-0800, [www.volarcil.org](http://www.volarcil.org) – independent living skills training

#### Lighthouses for the Blind:

Austin: 512-442-2329, [www.austinlighthouse.org](http://www.austinlighthouse.org), offers both beginner keyboarding classes and programs that provide instruction on Windows, Word, Excel, Internet, email, and accessibility programs

Corpus Christi (South Texas): 361-883-6553, [www.stlb.net](http://www.stlb.net), offers classes in accessibility programs and basic computer skills

Dallas: 214-821-2375, [www.dallaslighthouse.org](http://www.dallaslighthouse.org), computer and accessibility programs training

El Paso: 915-532-4495, [www.lighthouse-elpaso.com](http://www.lighthouse-elpaso.com),  
Through the McKee Assistive Technology Center, individuals can receive instruction on basic computing as well as AT software programs such as screen reading and magnification programs, note taking devices, and Braille output devices.

East Texas Lighthouse for the Blind: 903-593-3111, [www.etlb.org](http://www.etlb.org),  
Offers free classes for all ages on assistive technology and computer programs including screen reading, magnification software, and Microsoft Office certification.

Houston: 713-284-8445, [www.houstonlighthouse.org](http://www.houstonlighthouse.org), offers basic computer skills training through the Office Skills Training program, and assistive technology training through the Job Readiness Vocational Program

San Antonio: 210-533-5195, [www.salighthouse.org](http://www.salighthouse.org), provides training on basic computer skills and programs as well as assistive technology

## San Antonio's Community Family Resource and Learning Division

Location of classes:

Bob Ross Center

2219 Babcock Road

San Antonio, Texas 78229

210-207-5300

Computer classes for adults with visual impairments that teach basic computer skills and the use of adaptive software

Source: San Antonio Low Vision Club website

## Texas Assistive Technology Program (TATP)

Texas Center for Disability Studies

800-828-7839 or 512-232-0740

<http://tatp.edb.utexas.edu/>

TATP partners with organizations in Texas to provide three types of centers: assistive technology demonstration sites, computer demonstration sites, and portable (mobile) computer demonstration sites. Some of these organizations are already included in this document. In order to avoid duplication, independent living centers and lighthouses for the blind that also serve as TATP demonstration sites are mentioned in those sections.

Other AT demonstration sites:

Ability Connections (Dallas): 214-351-2500

Goodwill Industries of Central Texas (Austin): 512-637- 7520

Goodwill Industries: (Fort Worth): 817-332-7866 X 2069

Helping Hands (Amarillo): 806-331-7202

Paso Del Norte Children's Development Center

(El Paso): 915-544-8484

Easter Seals of Greater Houston: 713-838-9050

Portable computer demonstration sites: See independent living centers above.

### **Individuals:**

Blind Planet

714-816-4105

Skype: cbakhru

<http://blind-planet.com/training-and-support/>

The owner will do technology training via phone or Skype (web cam) for \$30 per hour.

Dean Martineau

425-296-1744

[dean@topdotenterprises.com](mailto:dean@topdotenterprises.com)

Uses Skype and JAWS to do trainings, including i-phone training  
He also speaks Spanish and French. He charges \$20 per hour.

Jeanine K. Lineback

512-919-0430

[linebacktek@gmail.com](mailto:linebacktek@gmail.com)

Has started her own training company called TekSolutions

Jonathan Mosen

<http://Mosen.org>

Offers training via Skype, JAWS tandem, or Window Eyes equivalent  
Provides training on AT, Microsoft Office, word processing (Mac), general  
computer navigation and maintenance, and social networking

Marcy Duty

214-732-5788

[marci.smiles@gmail.com](mailto:marci.smiles@gmail.com)

She charges \$25 per hour for telephone or Skype sessions, and will work on  
nights or weekends. She can also provide technology instruction in Spanish.

Marian Stankiewicz

254-855-9779

[mstankiewicz@hot.rr.com](mailto:mstankiewicz@hot.rr.com)

She provides instruction by phone and online, offering assistance with  
Windows, Word, Outlook and assistive technology programs such as JAWS,  
Window Eyes, and Zoomtext.

Portal Tutoring / Ann K. Parsons

[www.portaltutoring.info](http://www.portaltutoring.info)

Online classes in learning computers, adaptive programs, and Braille  
Fees are charged by the hour.

### **Internet Resources:**

JAWS tutorial:

<http://cat.buffalo.edu/refreshablebraille/video/jaws.php>

This is a tutorial divided into six modules, all of which are available in downloadable, pdf format. The tutorial is designed for sighted persons who are providing instruction to persons who are visually impaired.

Youtube videos:

List from Fred's Head database for videos about AT and Braille:

[www.fredshead.info/2013/07/youtube-videos-for-people-who-are-blind.html](http://www.fredshead.info/2013/07/youtube-videos-for-people-who-are-blind.html)

### **Other Ideas:**

Oasis

[www.oasisnet.org](http://www.oasisnet.org)

Oasis is an organization designed to promote healthy, active lifestyles for seniors. Texas Chapter:

San Antonio: 210-236-5954,

[www.oasisnet.org/SanAntonioTX/LocationsandContacts.aspx](http://www.oasisnet.org/SanAntonioTX/LocationsandContacts.aspx)

Senior Activity Centers:

Persons can call 211 for information in their area, or use the phone book or directory assistance to locate local centers. These classes may only teach basic computing skills, and are not specifically geared to persons with low vision or blindness.

### **Non-computer Access to the Internet:**

Net Echo

877-231-9286 or 408-532-8460

[www.internetspeech.com](http://www.internetspeech.com)

Voice-activated service that allows users to surf the web or access email by dialing an assigned telephone number

The Disability Information and Referral Center  
800-252-9605 / [www.TexasTalkingBooks.org](http://www.TexasTalkingBooks.org)