



Perkins International

Perkins' Programs in China

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Partners in China

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Perkins International helps children reach their greatest potential



Each day, more children in China who are blind with additional disabilities are poised for a bright future.

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All we see is possibility... Founded in 1829

Programs in China
Services for Children who are
Blind with Additional Disabilities



Expanding Opportunities throughout China

Perkins is excited to build on the momentum and successes of programs we support in China. By strengthening partnerships among local and national agencies throughout the country, Perkins aspires to increase the number of children in need who receive quality educational services.

Program areas that would support this goal include:

- Launching a national resource center for children with visual impairment
- Increasing the availability of training programs to teachers
- Expanding preschool, multihandicapped and early intervention programs
- Establishing a formal national parents' association
- Developing, translating and widely disseminating publications and training materials
- Promoting Braille literacy by increasing access to the Perkins Brailier®



Perkins International helps children reach their greatest potential



There are at least 20,000 children in China, aged birth to 21 years old, who are deafblind and an additional 80,000 children who are visually impaired with additional disabilities. The vast majority of these children do not receive educational opportunities. In fact, less than 5% of children with these disabilities attend school or educational programs. In China, Perkins School for the Blind is partnering with local and national agencies to make education a reality for these children.

Perkins School for the Blind

Perkins School for the Blind, founded in 1829, is a world-renowned center of excellence in the education of those who are blind, deafblind, and blind with multiple disabilities. Nearly a century ago, we began training teachers from around the world. In 1989, with generous support from the **Conrad N. Hilton Foundation**, Perkins established a comprehensive program to support the education of children who are deafblind and blind with multiple disabilities throughout the world. Perkins' International helps build capacity at local, regional and national levels to develop independent, sustainable educational services. We partner with local organizations in more than 60 countries to provide services to children in need and develop training programs for teachers and administrators in education methods for children with multiple impairments. The Perkins Brailier®, the pen and paper for children who are blind, has been distributed to schools in 170 countries.

Perkins' Programs in China

In 2001, Perkins began collaborating with the Chinese Ministry of Education and the China National Institute for Educational Research in a shared effort to provide educational services to preschool and school-aged children with visual impairment and additional disabilities. Through these partnerships, Perkins coordinated the country's first training programs for teachers of these children. These programs help teachers to provide quality educational services to children by preparing them on subjects such as the development of individual learning goals for children, communication techniques, literacy (including Braille), orientation and mobility, low vision and activities to advance socialization and encourage independence. A select group of highly skilled teachers received advanced training as national mentors; they will extend their expertise in the field by offering training and consultation to programs throughout the country.

In 2006, Perkins, in collaboration with the Chinese Ministry of Education and the China National Institute for Educational Research, sponsored the National Congress on Early Childhood and Multihandicapped Education for Visually Impaired Children. This event was the first national forum that brought together teachers, parents, school administrators and government officials to discuss quality education programs for these children.

In addition to training for teachers, specialized programs are provided for administrators at schools for the blind and policy-makers in an effort to broaden the impact of educational policy on both local and national levels. Recently, training programs have been extended to universities, such as a program at Chongqing University in collaboration with Amity Foundation, to provide instruction to curriculum directors and administrators at special schools. Perkins has also begun distributing the Perkins Brailier® to schools throughout China. The goal is to provide expanded literacy opportunities for children through access to the braille-writing machine.



The momentum from teacher training programs in China has yielded great success. Over the last six years, these programs have professionally prepared more than **90 educators** of children with visual impairments and additional disabilities. Today, there are **20 programs** for preschoolers and school-aged children who are visually impaired with additional disabilities in 11 major cities throughout China. Each year, these programs provide educational opportunities to at least **325 children**.

In 2005, Perkins began collaborating with the Amity Foundation, a Chinese voluntary organization, to establish the country's first home-based early intervention program for infants, toddlers, and young children with visual impairment. This program began at three schools in Jiangsu Province and provides support to parents at a critical time in their child's development. Each year, at least 60 young children and their families receive services.