



Deaf-Blind Registry: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

What is the Indiana Deaf-Blind Services Project?

The Indiana Deaf-Blind Services Project is a federally-funded, statewide service designed to improve the quality of educational services available to Indiana's children and youth with combined vision and hearing losses (deaf-blindness).

What is the purpose of the Indiana Deaf-Blind Registry?

The Indiana Deaf-Blind Services Project is responsible for compiling a variety of information on the students within the state who have combined vision and hearing losses and forwarding it to the National Consortium on Deaf-Blindness (NCDB) for the federal deaf-blind registry.

What is the purpose of the National Deaf-Blind Registry?

The National Deaf-Blind Registry is used to supplement the Office of Special Education Program's federal Child Count, which only includes children as deaf-blind when deaf-blindness is their sole disability. Since the majority of children with deaf-blindness do have additional disabilities, more detailed information is required. So, NCDB collects additional information for all children with combined vision and hearing losses, including those with additional disabilities. The National Deaf-Blind Registry represents the first, longest running, and most comprehensive registry of infants, toddlers, children, and young adults who have combined vision and hearing loss.

Why should a child be reported to the Indiana Deaf-Blind Registry?

By reporting a child to the Indiana Deaf-Blind Services Project Registry, the educator, the child, and his or her family are eligible for services from the project free of charge.

Who should be reported to the Indiana Deaf-Blind Registry?

Any child, birth through 21 years of age, who has a combined vision and hearing loss, including those with additional disabilities, should be reported.

My student has a documented hearing loss and vision loss, but both are mild and cause few concerns at this time. Should he/she be reported?

Yes. Any combination of documented hearing and vision losses, ranging from mild to severe and low vision to totally blind, should be reported.

My student does not have a medical diagnosis for his or her hearing and/or vision losses, but he/she functions as if he is both vision and hearing impaired. Should he/she be reported?

Yes. If a student functions as if he or she has both vision and hearing losses based upon inconsistent responses to auditory and visual stimuli in the environment or inconclusive responses during hearing and vision evaluations, he or she should be reported.

My student is diagnosed with a degenerative condition, which will affect vision and or hearing. Should this student be reported?

Yes. A student with a degenerative condition or progressive loss should be reported to the registry. A good example of this would be a student with Usher Syndrome. This student is typically born profoundly deaf and then experiences a progressive loss of vision due to Retinitis Pigmentosa. This student at 10 years may have little or no difficulty with vision, but by the age of 17 may be experiencing considerable difficulties with night and peripheral vision. They should be reported at any age.

My student has multiple disabilities including vision and hearing losses or has responded inconclusively during evaluations. Should this student be reported?

Yes. A child with multiple disabilities who also has vision and hearing losses or functions as if he or she has combined vision and hearing losses should be reported.

My student is identified on his/her IEP/IFSP as multi-disabled. Can she/he still be on the Deaf-Blind Registry?

Yes. You should count students in all of the areas for which they qualify, such as: counting them as multidisabled on the school count, counting them on the deaf-blind registry, and counting them on the APH count as a student who is blind.

My student can see. How can he be deaf-blind?

Persons who are deaf-blind are not necessarily totally blind and/or totally deaf. There is wide variety in the degrees of vision and hearing loss. Losses range from mild to severe, can be functional losses, or a diagnosed progressive condition. With any combination of these losses a person may be considered deaf-blind.

Does my student have to be listed as "deaf-blind" on his or her IEP to be reported to the Registry?

No. For example, a student who has "multidisabled" as his primary disability on his IEP and is reported on the state's child count as multidisabled, also functions, based upon an educational assessment, as both vision and hearing impaired. That student may be reported directly to the Project.

Can I report a student to the Registry based upon an educational evaluation?

Yes. A conclusion that a student is functionally deaf-blind may be reached based upon an educational evaluation for purposes of initially reporting that student to the Deaf-Blind Project.

I have an infant or toddler who is “at risk” for vision and hearing losses. Should that child be reported?

Yes. The child should be reported so that he or she qualifies for services. He or she can be removed from the registry if it is determined to be no longer appropriate at a later time.

Did I already complete the report for the Indiana Deaf-Blind Registry when I reported information on the December 1 child count or for the First Steps Data Collection Process?

No. This information is in addition to the First Steps Data Collection Process and the December 1 Child Count for the IDOE Office of Special Education.

How can we receive Project services?

The family, school and other educators working with a child who has combined vision and hearing losses may receive services from the project by reporting their student with deaf-blindness to the registry and then contacting the project.

Can I release information to the project without express parental consent?

Yes. Please be assured that the information requested is for the purposes outlined in FERPA Reg. 99.31 (a)(6): “An educational agency or institution may disclose personally identifiable information from education records of a student without the written consent of the parent . . . if the disclosure is: (6) to organizations conducting studies for, or on behalf of, educational agencies or institutions for the purpose of developing, validating, or administering predictive tests, administering student aid programs, and improving instruction . . .”

Should I use the “Indiana Deaf-Blind Services Project Referral Form” or the “Indiana Registry of Persons who are Deaf-Blind Form” to report an individual with combined vision and hearing losses?

If you have the information necessary to complete the registry form, please report students using the Indiana Registry of Persons who are Deaf-Blind Form. If you do not have the information necessary or do not feel comfortable providing that information to us, but know of a child whom you feel should be reported, please fill out the project Referral Form and forward it to us. We will use the information on the referral form to contact the family or other appropriate person to help us gather the information and get the child reported.

How can I get more Indiana Registry of Persons who are Deaf-Blind Forms?

Please feel free to make additional copies of the new student form to register additional students. It is also available on our website at:
<http://www.indstate.edu/blumberg/db/registry.htm>.

What should I do if my student moves out of our district or out-of-state?

If a student has moved or transferred to another program, please let us know where and when so that we can track him/her for the federal census.