



Overview Information

The Oregon Deafblind Project is a “Technical Assistance and Dissemination” project, funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Education. It is housed at the Teaching Research Institute on the campus of Western Oregon University at Monmouth, but serves the whole of Oregon. The Oregon Department of Education is the project’s major partner, collaborating to ensure statewide technical assistance and support to educational teams who are responsible for the education of children who are deafblind, and to reach out to and assist parents and families of this population. The project serves children from birth through age 21 years. Technical assistance and support to IEP teams serving students who are deafblind enables the teams to implement the highly specialized services needed in the provision of a free, appropriate, public education for learners who are deafblind, residing in Oregon. Students eligible to receive services through the Project must meet the federal definition of Deafblindness:

“Children and youth having auditory and visual impairments, the combination of which creates such severe communication and other developmental and learning needs that they cannot be appropriately educated without special education and related services, beyond those that would be provided solely for children with hearing impairments, visual impairments, or severe disabilities, to address their educational needs due to these concurrent disabilities.”

Project activities are developed to provide technical assistance which supports the appropriate delivery of educational services to children and youth who are deafblind, their parents and other family members. By providing training to Regional Deafblind Consulting Teachers, other Oregon professionals, family members and persons in the community, and a cadre of consultants representing various related professions (e.g. adult/transition services, medical services, therapists), the project provides an infrastructure that can support children who are deafblind.

Services to children who are deafblind and their families are based on the project’s goals:

1. Identification, referral and registration of all children and youth who are deafblind or are suspected of being deafblind at the earliest age possible; including earlier identification of Usher Syndrome.
2. Technical assistance and training to families to build their capacity to meet the needs of, and advocate for their children who are deafblind.
3. Technical assistance and training for service providers, including children’s interveners (paraprofessionals, IAs), regular educators, and related service personnel in order to ensure provision of high quality services to children who are deafblind.
4. Expanding the base of partnerships that will provide community support in educating and empowering children who are deafblind, and their families and teams.

In order to receive Technical Assistance or Training from the Project, a child who is deafblind should be made “eligible” by his/her IFSP or IEP team, and a child registry form must be submitted to the Oregon Deafblind Project’s director. This will “officially” register the child with the project. Technical assistance services and trainings are offered AT NO COST to districts and to families. Requests for service are honored on a first-come-first-served basis. Additional statewide trainings will also be offered from time to time.

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