

Deaf-Blind (DB)

Definition

Deaf-blindness means concomitant hearing and visual impairments, the combination of which causes such severe communication and other developmental and educational needs that they cannot be accommodated in special education programs solely for children with deafness or children with blindness. By reason of the deaf-blindness, the child needs special education and related services.

A student with deaf-blindness is one who:

- Meets the eligibility criteria for a student with a visual impairment AND the eligibility criteria for a student with an auditory impairment; OR
- Meets the criteria for a student with visual impairment and has a suspected hearing loss that cannot be demonstrated conclusively, but a speech/language therapist, certified speech and language therapist, or a licensed speech language pathologist, indicates there is no speech at an age when speech would normally be present OR
- Has documented hearing and visual losses that if considered individually, may not meet the requirements for auditory impairment or visual impairment, but the combination of such losses adversely affects that student's educational performance; OR
- Has documented medical diagnosis of a progressive medical condition that will result in concomitant hearing and visual losses that, without special education intervention will adversely affect the student's educational performance.

Required Eligibility Forms

- FIE
- Visually Impaired Eye Examination Report (Part A)
- Functional Vision/Media Assessment (Part B)
- Auditory Impaired - Otological (Part A)
- Auditory Impaired -Audiological (Part B)
- Communication Evaluation (Part C)
- Evaluation Report for Deaf-Blind

ARD/IEP Requirements

- Both AI and VI certified specialists must be present for all ARD/IEP meetings
- Parents must be provided information regarding the Texas School for the Blind and the Texas School for the Deaf
- VI Supplement must be completed by VI Specialist
- AI Communication Supplement must be completed by AI Specialist

For a child from birth through two years of age with a visual impairment and/or an auditory impairment, an individualized family service plan (IFSP) meeting must be held in place of an ARD committee meeting.

