



Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired Outreach Programs

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Interpreter, Intervener, Co-Navigator/Support Service Provider...What's the Difference?

Interpreter

An **interpreter** is an impartial conduit through which information flows. An individual may use an interpreter to gain access to the auditory information around them. The interpreter relays all information from conversations and ambient sounds occurring within the environment. An interpreter may be asked to provide services for a single individual or for a group of individuals. Interpreters can work in both educational and community settings. Interpreters for individuals who are deafblind may also provide environmental information, guiding, and/or specific interpreting methods such as tactile or close sign.

Intervener

An **intervener** facilitates access to learning, development of new skills, communication, and feelings of connection and security for an individual who is deafblind. Similar to the interpreter, the intervener facilitates access to learning and communication. Interveners typically provide an additional

level of one-on-one support than that of an interpreter. This support can be provided through a variety of modes including visual or tactile sign language, or through an oral/aural approach. In addition, interveners may provide individuals who are deafblind with instruction that supports their skills and conceptual development. An individual may need both an interpreter and an intervener. Intervenors can work in educational, home and community settings.

Co-Navigator (CN) or Support Service Provider (SSP)

A **Co-Navigator (CN) or SSP (support service provider)** provides access to information about other people and the environment at the direction of an individual who is deafblind. Deafblind individuals who are able to autonomously manage daily activities may use Co-Navigator services. Co-Navigators may perform a wide variety of tasks in support, and under the guidance and direction of, individuals who are deafblind. Unlike interveners, a co-navigator does not teach or provide instruction to individuals who are deafblind. Deafblind individuals assume the responsibility of guiding the co-navigator and informing them about what type of support they may need.

Resources to Learn More:

Comparison of Educational Roles Resources

- “Comparison of Possible Supports for Students Who Are DeafBlind”.
By Beth Kennedy, DB Central: Michigan’s Training and Resource Project 2016.
https://craft.nationaldb.org/OHOA/Module-3/Comparison-of-Supports_a.pdf
- Probst, Kristi, and Suzanne Morrow. “Supporting Individuals Who Are Deafblind.”
Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Inc., 5 Jan. 2019,
rid.org/supporting-individuals-who-are-deafblind.
- Supporting Individuals Who Are DeafBlind. Interpreters, Interveners, and Support Service Providers Kristi M. Probst, Ed. D. and Susanne Morrow, M.A., CI and CT. Retrieved from The Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Inc. (RID)
<https://rid.org/supporting-individuals-who-are-deafblind/>
- “What is My Role?” A Comparison of the Responsibilities of Interpreters, Interveners, and Support Service Providers (Susanne Morgan, MA, CI, CT)
Deaf-Blind Perspectives, Vol. 9 Issue 1, Fall 2001
<https://documents.nationaldb.org/dbp/pdf/sept01.pdf#page=1>

Educational Interpreter Resources:

- Accurate Language Services, et al. “Educational Interpreting: The Role Of Educational Interpreters.” *Accurate Language Services*, 19 Feb. 2021,
accuratelanguageservices.com/educational-interpreting-role-of-interpreters.
- “Deafblind Interpretation.” *WFDB*, 16 Apr. 2020,
www.wfdb.eu/interpretation/#:%7E:text=Deafblind%20interpreting%20is%20the%20provision.through%20three%20fully%20integrated%20elements.
- “Roles and Responsibilities - EIPA Written Test and Knowledge Standards - Classroom Interpreting.” *Classroom Interpreting*, 1991,
www.classroominterpreting.org/EIPA/standards/roles.asp.

Educational Intervener Resources:

- “Definition of Intervener Services and Interveners in Educational Settings Technical Report” National Consortium on Deaf-Blindness 2.0. July 2013
<https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED545215.pdf>
- “Determining the Need for an Intervener in Educational Settings in Texas- 2nd Edition” By: Texas Deafblind Project, updated August 2021.

<https://www.tsbvi.edu/images/outreach/Documents/Determining%202021.pdf>

- “Home.” *Intervener.Org*, 17 May 2021, intervener.org.
- Intervener Basics: Myth, Legend, and Reality. By: David Wiley, Texas Deafblind Project, Austin, TX. *TX SenseAbilities*, 2014.
<https://www.tsbvi.edu/fall-2014-items/4213-intervener-basics-myth-legend-and-reality>
- Intervener Services and Intervener Services in Educational Settings. National Center on Deaf-Blindness
https://www.philiprockcenter.org/images/files/NCDB_Intervener_Services_Definition_2014.pdf
- National Center on Deaf-Blindness. “Intervener Services and Interveners in Education Settings: Definition.” *National Center on Deaf-Blindness*, 2013, documents.nationaldb.org/NCDB_Intervener_Services_Definition_2019_a.pdf.
- Ohio Center for Deafblind Education: Intervener Services: An Overview
<https://ohiodeafblind.org/training-and-support/intervener-services-training>
- Ryder, Ruth E. “Letter to Dr. Linda McDowell.” *United States Department of Education Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Services*, 2 Aug. 2018, www2.ed.gov/policy/speced/guid/idea/memosdcitrs/osep-letter-to-mcdowell-08-02-2018.pdf.

Co-Navigator/Support Service Provider Resources:

- Bourquin, Eugene, et al. “AADB -- White Paper on the Roles and Responsibilities of the Support Service Providers (SSPs).” *American Association of the Deaf-Blind*, Nov. 2006, aadb.org/advocacy/ssps/white_paper_ssp.html.
- “Deafblind Support Service Provider (SSP) Program Guidelines” Utah State Office of Rehabilitation
Division of Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired (DSBVI)
<http://168.180.167.55/usor/dsbvi/resources/sspguidelineslarge.pdf>
- Division of Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired. “Deafblind Support Service Provider (SSP) Program Guidelines.” *Utah State Office of Rehabilitation*,
jobs.utah.gov/usor/dsbvi/resources/sspguidelineslarge.pdf. Accessed 25 May 2021.
- Eugene Bourquin et al. Support Service Providers for People who are Deaf-Blind November 2006. AADB White Paper
http://aadb.org/advocacy/ssps/white_paper_ssp.html
- Texas Governor’s Committee on People with Disabilities. “Report on Support Service Providers (SSPs)/CoNavigators (CNs).” *Texas Governor’s Committee on People with Disabilities*, Dec. 2020,

gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/organization/disabilities/GCPD-SSP-CN-Report-2020.pdf.

- Louisiana Commission for the Deaf. "Louisiana Commission for the Deaf Service Provision Manual." *Louisiana Commission for the Deaf*, Sept. 2020, ldh.la.gov/assets/docs/deafcommission/LCD_Technical_Guidance_Manual.pdf.

Home/Community Intervener Resources:

- Interveners in the Home And Community: An Under-Recognized Imperative NCDDB Home and Community Intervener Workgroup, 2014 <https://www.nationaldb.org/media/doc/Interveners-Home-Community.pdf>

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Figure 4 TSBVI logo.



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Figure 5 IDEAs that Work logo and OSEP disclaimer.