

Fact Sheet for Parents about the Texas Deafblind Child Count

What is the Texas Deafblind Child Count?

Each year the Texas Education Agency (TEA), Division of Special Education, is required to report to the United States Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Services (OSERS) the number of individuals, 0-21 years of age, with deafblindness (combined vision and hearing loss) in Texas. If your child meets the Commissioner's Rules regarding eligibility as deafblind, your child's school district should include him/her in the annual Texas Deafblind Child Count.

How does my child's school district report the information?

In December information about the Deafblind Child Count is sent to each district supervisor and posted on the Texas School for the Blind & Visually Impaired website. Beginning in January the district submits information online about each student who meets eligibility as deafblind so it can be compiled by May and included in the federal child count.

What kind of information is gathered?

In addition to basic numbers of students with deafblindness in each district, the Texas Education Agency collects the following information each student:

- age
- gender
- degree of vision and hearing loss
- etiology or cause of the deafblindness
- the types of services provided including interveners
- the setting in which the services are provided

How is the information used?

The Deafblind Child Count provides information that Texas Education Agency uses for regional and statewide planning.

Why do I sign the Consent for Release of Confidential Information?

By signing the consent form, you allow these additional agencies who provide services for individuals with deafblindness access to the information:

- Regional Education Service Centers
- Texas Department of Human Services is Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC)
- Texas Workforce Commission (TWC)
- Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired
- Texas Deafblind Outreach Project
- American Printing House for the Blind, Inc.

- Learning Ally
- Texas State Library, Division for the Blind and Physically Handicapped
- Benetech (also known as Book Share)
- Helen Keller National Center for Deafblind Youths and Adults
- National Consortium on Deaf blindness
- United States Department of Education, Office of special Education and Rehabilitation Services

How will this information help my child?

All fifty states and Puerto Rico send their information to the National Center on Deafblindness. This data helps in determining funding for technical assistance grants to states so they can provide information, support and training for families, educational staff and others who are serving school-aged students with deafblindness. In addition, the information is used by lawmakers and agencies in deciding about needs and services for this population of students.

How can I make sure that my child is counted?

First of all, be sure to sign the Consent for Release of Confidential Information form! Ask your school district or ECI program if your child is being reported on the Texas Deafblind Child Count. If you have questions, you may also contact Brian Sobeck at 512-206-9225 or email to sobeckb@tsbvi.edu.

Developed by Texas Deafblind Outreach
Texas School for the Blind & Visually Impaired



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