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National Consortium on Deaf-Blindness
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NCDB

NATIONAL CONSORTIUM ON DEAF-BLINDNESS



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Children who are deaf-blind have both hearing and vision loss. Although most are not totally deaf or totally blind, the combination of hearing loss and vision loss significantly impacts a child's ability to access information, communicate, and interact with other people. The presence of additional physical disabilities, cognitive disabilities, or medical conditions is common and creates further challenges. Children and youth identified as deaf-blind are a unique group of learners who require intensive and effective early intervention and educational programs from infancy through young adulthood.

The National Consortium on Deaf-Blindness

(NCDB) works collaboratively with families, federal, state and local agencies to provide technical assistance, information and personnel training. **NCDB** brings together the resources of three agencies with long histories of expertise in the field of deaf-blindness.

Consortium partners are:

- ◆ **The Teaching Research Institute (TRI) at Western Oregon University**
- ◆ **Helen Keller National Center (HKNC)**
- ◆ **Hilton/Perkins Program at Perkins School for the Blind**



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Improving Outcomes For Children Who Are Deaf-Blind

Technical Assistance

NCDB provides technical assistance (TA) and support to assist states in the implementation of IDEA and evidence-based practices. **NCDB** works to identify the needs of children, their families and their educational teams, and implements an array of TA to build the capacity of state and local agencies to meet those needs.

NCDB Technical Assistance strives to:

- ◆ Improve the identification of children who are deaf-blind
- ◆ Increase educational achievement
- ◆ Improve transition services and the achievement of post-secondary goals
- ◆ Increase the ability of families to effectively participate in the education of their child
- ◆ Employ effective evaluation strategies to improve accountability



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Personnel Training

NCDB provides leadership in a national effort to promote personnel training and professional development. In collaboration with state deaf-blind projects, personnel preparation projects, and other federally funded projects **NCDB** works to:

- ◆ Identify national shortages, training needs, and necessary practicum experience specific to deaf-blindness
- ◆ Facilitate the development of a national personnel training and leadership consortium
- ◆ Maximize the use of evidence-based research and implementation research to more effectively train personnel
- ◆ Develop a repository of personnel training resources that can be shared across programs



Information Services and Dissemination

NCDB is home to DB-LINK, the largest collection of information related to deaf-blindness worldwide. A team of information specialists makes this extensive resource available in response to direct requests, via the NCDB web site, and through topical mailing lists.

Contact DB-LINK to:

- ◆ Access quality information that can make a difference for a child
- ◆ Locate information about evidence-based practices
- ◆ Receive *Deaf-Blind Perspectives* and other NCDB publications
- ◆ Find resources in your state
- ◆ Receive tailored information packets to support teaching or training
- ◆ Connect to a network of experts and families

*Committed
to
children
and
families*



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