



PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION | Catherine Truitt, *Superintendent of Public Instruction*

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TO: Directors, Exceptional Children Programs
Exceptional Children Coordinators, Charter Schools
Directors, State-Operated Programs
Directors, Private Educational Agencies
Directors, Child Development Services Agencies

FROM: Sherry H. Thomas *SHT*

DATE: February 8, 2021

SUBJECT: Annual North Carolina Deaf-Blind Census

It is time for the Exceptional Children Division and the NC Deaf-blind Project (NCDBP) to collect data for the Annual Census of Students with Deaf-Blindness which is a requirement of the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) Deaf-Blind Technical Assistance Grant. The child count is a point-in-time snapshot and should reflect the infants, toddlers, and youth identified from your December 1st headcount. The census will open February 15, 2021, and close March 15, 2021.

Deaf-blindness is often mistaken for the total inability to see or hear. Most individuals are not totally blind and profoundly deaf; rather, have varying degrees of hearing and visual loss. When presented in children, this could result in "severe communication and other developmental and educational needs that cannot be accommodated in special education programs solely for children with deafness or children with blindness" (34 CFR 300.8 (c) (2), 2006). **Students may be reported on the Deaf-blind Census if they have been found eligible under the category of deaf-blindness or another category such as multiple disabilities.**

All entities who submitted data last year will be provided with a copy of their submission via email as a password protected Excel spreadsheet. The person you assign to update the information will indicate if the student continues to be eligible for the deaf-blind census or if the student is no longer eligible by selecting the appropriate reason from a dropdown menu in the first column. NEW students that have been identified as eligible for the deaf-blind census will be registered using a Qualtrics link that will be provided in a separate communication. If an entity has no eligible students to report for the deaf-blind census, the same Qualtrics link will be used to indicate that.

To expedite completion of the Qualtrics form for NEW students, it is helpful to gather the following information prior to completing the form. In an effort to streamline the process for completing the survey, only the information requested by the National Center on Deaf-blindness is required. The PowerSchool number is for NCDBP purposes to accurately identify the student in the appropriate data system to confirm eligibility and identify additional information necessary for the NCDBP's technical assistance and support efforts.

EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN DIVISION

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AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

- Demographic Information
 - Child's name
 - Child's birth date
 - Gender
 - Power School ID
 - DOB
 - Race/ethnicity
 - Child's living setting
- Educational Information
 - Part C/Part B eligibility
 - Part C/Part B Education Setting
 - Participation in Statewide Assessment
 - Intervener Services
- Disability Information
 - Etiology (cause of deaf-blindness)
 - Vision and hearing information
 - Other Impairments/Conditions

Please work with your team to ensure that any infant, toddler, or youth who may be eligible for the NC Deaf-blind Census is registered so that teachers and families can benefit from the many free resources, supports, and training opportunities offered by the NC Deaf-blind Project including workforce development and post-secondary transition.

The following outlines the NC Deaf-Blind Census timeline:

- February 15-17, 2021
 - EC Director receives spreadsheet of data submitted from previous year's census
 - Qualtrics link for reporting NEW students to the census or indicating your LEA has no students to report
- February 18-March 15, 2021
 - Review the spreadsheet with previous year's data and update completing the first column; save the spreadsheet using the same password and email it back to Dottie Snyder at Dorothy.snyder@dpi.nc.gov
 - Register any NEW students on the Qualtrics form
 - Use the Qualtrics form to indicate your LEA has no students to report

This memo as well as additional information and instructions regarding the Annual Deaf-blind Census will be posted in the following locations for your convenience.

[EC Division G-site for Deaf and Hard of Hearing: Deaf-blind Resources Page](#)

[EC Division G-site for Visual Impairment: Deaf-blind Resources Page](#)

If you have questions about the NC Deaf-Blind Project, student eligibility, or the Annual Deaf-Blind Census, please contact Dottie Snyder, Co-Director of the North Carolina Deaf-Blind Project, 984-236-2583, dorothy.snyder@dpi.nc.gov.

ST/SV/ds