
MISSOURI SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND

December 1, 2016

FEDERAL CENSUS FOR INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE DEAFBLIND

TO SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS:

The Missouri Deafblind Technical Assistance Project is again conducting the Federally mandated census of individuals who are deafblind (birth through 21 years of age) in the State of Missouri. The Deafblind Census includes individuals **who have any type and/or degree of combined visual and auditory loss**. These individuals **do not** need to be legally blind nor do they need to have a severe to profound auditory impairment.

Definition of Deafblindness:

*The term, "children with deaf-blindness," means children and youth having **auditory and visual** impairments, the combination of which creates such severe communication and other developmental and learning needs that they cannot be appropriately educated without special education and related services, beyond those that would be provided solely for children with hearing impairments, visual impairments, or severe disabilities, to address their educational needs due to these concurrent disabilities. This term also means infants and toddlers with deafblindness.*

It is not necessary for a student to be identified as both visually impaired/blind and hearing impaired/deaf according to the Missouri State Plan for Special Education eligibility criteria to be included on the Deafblind Census. **When both visual and hearing loss of any degree are present, register the student on the Census, even if the student was counted in the Child Count under a different disability category.** Students may be listed on the census who are not receiving Part B or Part C services from their local school district.

The term "infants and toddlers with deaf-blindness" means individuals, from birth through age 2, who are experiencing developmental delays in hearing and vision, have a diagnosed physical or mental condition that has a **high probability** of resulting in developmental delays in hearing and vision, or are **at risk** of having substantial developmental delays in hearing and vision if early intervention services are not provided

On the last page of the form, after assistive technology, there is a question about whether or not the child is receiving "**Intervener Services**." Intervener services provide access to information and communication and facilitate the development of social and emotional well-being for children who are deaf-blind. In educational environments, intervener services are provided by an individual, typically a paraprofessional, who has received specialized training in deaf-blindness and the process of intervention. An intervener provides consistent one-to-one support to a student who is deaf-blind (age 3 through 21) throughout the instructional day.

This annual Census makes the educators and/or any other team providing services to these individuals, including their families, eligible for technical assistance, inservice training and consultation.

All educational programs need to reply, concerning their program's status.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE CENSUS FORMS (Yellow Forms):

1. **MO DEAFBLIND CENSUS REPORT FORM 2016 "NONE TO REPORT"**
 - a. If you do not have individuals who have combined vision and hearing losses to report.
 - b. Complete the one-page form and return it to Susan Bonner. You are finished.

2. Individuals who were **reported last year**
 - a. Update the information on the enclosed **one-page census information** form.
 - b. **Mark any changes and or corrections on this form including their MOSIS number and if the child is receiving support from an Intervener (one-on-one paraprofessional).**
 - c. Mark your name and date on the form and return it.
 - d. When using the one-page census information form, it is not necessary then to complete the 4-page census reporting form.
 - e. Parent release form signed may be sent in later.
 - f. If the student is no longer served by you, please return the form and note this on the one-page census information page and, if known, please list the new LEA.

3. **2016 MO DEAFBLIND CENSUS REPORTING FORM & Parent Release Form completed only for new referrals to the census**
 - a. Copy this form for each new individual to be reported.
 - b. Complete and return the four-page form.
 - c. If you are unable to get the Parent Release Form signed and returned with the Census Form by the due date, please send the Census Form without it and return the signed Parent Release Form under separate cover.

Also, if the vision and/or hearing impairment identified last year noted that the student required "**further testing needed,**" the student will need to have a documented loss this year and if applicable the degree of the loss. If this is not documented, this student will be removed from the census. Please note that any new students on the census have one year to secure the proper documentation of the vision and/or hearing loss.

4. Completed forms are to be returned to Susan Bonner, Missouri School for the Blind, 3815 Magnolia Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63110-4099, or fax the form to 314-773-3762 by February 1, 2017. Should you have any questions, contact Susan Bonner at 314-633-1553 or susan.bonner@msb.dese.mo.gov

Thank you for your prompt attention to this request.

Sincerely,

Susan Bonner, Missouri Deafblind Technical Assistance Project Director
Outreach Coordinator, Missouri School for the Blind
Enclosures

3815 Magnolia Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63110
(314) 776-4320
www.msb.dese.mo.gov