

MISSOURI SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND

December 1, 2016

FEDERAL CENSUS FOR CHILDREN WHO ARE DEAFBLIND IN OR ELIGIBLE FOR PART C (First Steps) SERVICES

The Missouri Deafblind Technical Assistance Project is conducting the annual Federally mandated census of children who are deafblind in the State of Missouri. The Deafblind Census includes children **who have any type and/or degree of combined vision and hearing loss**. These children **do not** need to be legally blind nor do they need to have a severe to profound hearing impairment.

The Census makes the education and/or any other team providing services to these children, including their families, eligible for technical assistance, inservice training and consultation.

When both vision and hearing losses of any degree are present, register the child on the Census.

The term “infants and toddlers with deaf-blindness” means children, 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.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE CENSUS FORMS

1. **MO DEAFBLIND CENSUS REPORT FORM 2016 “NONE TO REPORT”**
 - a. Use this form, if you do not have children 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. **Children’s Center for the Visually Impaired (CCVI)** in the Kansas City area and **Delta Gamma Center for Children with Visual Impairments** in the St. Louis area complete census data on eligible children served by them. If you are not sure if the child has been reported by one of these agencies, please email me the child’s name and date of birth. I will check the data and let you know if information is on file about the child. Currently, these two agencies report census data on children eligible for the Deafblind Census.

3. **2016 MO DEAFBLIND CENSUS Part C (First Steps) REPORTING FORM completed for all new referrals children reported last year to the census**
 - a. Copy this form for each child to be reported.
 - b. For children reported last year, a profile of what was reported last year is enclosed. Use this information to complete a new application or document on the profile any changes or if no changes, mark no new changes. Date and sign it. Return the profile. When using the one-page census profile, it is not necessary then to complete the 2-page census reporting form, as long as you return your verification that you mark on the profile. .
 - c. Complete the form for all new referrals and return the two-page form.

Also, if the child required **“further testing needed,”** the child will need to have documentation concerning the results completed within one year. If this is not documented, this child will be removed from the census next year. Please note that for any new child on the census we have one year to secure the proper documentation of the vision and/or hearing loss.

Please note this question, we are to document for our count: **“Does your child receive support for their instruction from an intervener, a person who serves as a one-on-one paraprofessional?”** An intervener provides a bridge to the world for the student who is deafblind. The intervener helps the student gather information, learn concepts and skills, develop communication and language, and establish relationships that lead to greater independence. The intervener is a support person who does with, not for the student.

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 need any assistance, 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
Outreach Coordinator: Missouri School for the Blind
Project Director: Missouri Deafblind Technical Assistance Project

Enclosures