



## Missouri DeafBlind Technical Assistance Project Fact Sheet The Importance of the Missouri DeafBlind Census

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) mandates an annual census of all persons with deafblindness ages birth through 21 years. The Missouri DeafBlind Technical Assistance Project (the Project) is tasked by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) this annual census.

The DeafBlind Census informs the United States Congress and the United States Department of Education about these infants, children, and youth with deafblindness. The data collected also helps the Project identify and provide connections to services and supports needed by these individuals, their families, and the agencies that support them.

The DeafBlind Census consists of demographic information such as date of birth, gender, and living and education settings, and descriptive information such as cause of deafblindness and concomitant disabilities.

When a local education agency submits an individual to the DeafBlind Census, the Project provides information on services and supports available on a local, state, and national level. Similar information is sent to the family. In both cases, a form is provided to guide individuals through the process of requesting assistance from the Project.

The Project also uses demographic and descriptive information provided by the Census to develop topical workshops and family engagement activities.



It is the policy of the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, age or disability in its programs or employment practices as required by Title VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Inquiries related to Department programs may be directed to the Jefferson State Office Building, Civil Rights Compliance (Title VI/Title IX/504/Age Act), 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, 205 Jefferson Street, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102-0480; telephone number: 573-526-4757 or Relay Missouri (800) 735-2966.

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