

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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PENN\*LINK

**TO:** Early Intervention Preschool Supervisors  
Early Intervention Coordinators  
School District Special Education Directors  
Charter School Special Education Directors  
Intermediate Unit Special Education Directors  
Approved Private Schools Special Education Directors

**FROM:** Carole Clancy, Director  
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**SUBJECT:** Annual Deaf-Blind Child Count for Infants, Toddlers, Preschoolers, and Students

Annually, the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), requires the Pennsylvania Deaf-Blind Project to conduct the National Deaf-Blind Child Count, formerly called the National Deaf-Blind Census. The Deaf-Blind Child Count records the number of infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and students who have dual sensory impairments or who are at risk of developing dual sensory impairments, and who are enrolled in early intervention or special education as of the December 1, 2017 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) child count.

The count will be conducted **beginning February 1, 2020**. You must verify and submit your information no later than **February 28, 2020**. It is important for Pennsylvania to have an accurate Deaf-Blind Child Count as this information is tied to funding research, training, and technical assistance for this population of children.

Please be aware that for the Deaf-Blind Child Count the federal definition of deaf-blindness is more inclusive and extensive than the one used for the IDEA child count. Infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and students should be reported in the count if they meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and students whose primary or secondary diagnosis is deaf-blindness;
- Infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and students who have a mild to severe hearing loss and some degree of vision impairment that requires adaptations or modifications;
- Infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and students who have a diagnosis that places them at risk for developing a hearing loss and visual impairment; and
- Infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and students with multiple disabilities who may demonstrate inconsistent responses to light and sound.

It is important for each Early Intervention Program and Local Educational Agency (LEA) to participate in the Deaf-Blind Child Count.

- If you **do not** have any infants, toddlers, preschoolers, or students with deaf-blindness, you will still need to log in and identify that you are not educating anyone with deaf-blindness at the present time.
- If you are educating an infant, toddler, preschooler, or student with dual sensory impairments, you will need to either enter a new record or verify information about a child who already exists in the system.
- School-age and preschool programs are encouraged to work closely with contracted providers (e.g., Approved Private Schools, Charter Schools for the Deaf or Blind) to ensure an accurate count of children.
- Connecting families of children who are deaf-blind with supporting networks and information is vital. A feature of the Deaf-Blind Child Count, initiated two years ago, is a letter which you will be asked to send to the family of each child listed in your count. The letter provides information which will link them to support and information for their family.

## **Deaf-Blind Child Count – Approved Private School Entries**

All Approved Private Schools (APSs) entered their student data prior to the Deaf-Blind Child Count being opened for Early Intervention programs, school districts, charter schools, and service providers. While there are few infants and toddlers served in an APS, you may see a child in the Deaf-Blind Child Count which has been entered by an APS. For those programs with many students who qualify, this will save them valuable time. This was done by all APSs even if there are no students who qualify for the Deaf-Blind Child Count enrolled in their school. As the Early Intervention Program or LEA for these respective students, you must either confirm that the student is your responsibility or reject them if the student is not within your catchment area or in the age range of children you serve. After you confirm that you are the Early Intervention Program or LEA for the student, you can update other data as necessary.

If you are the Early Intervention Program responsible for providing early intervention services to the entered child, you should confirm that the child is your responsibility. If the child is not the responsibility of your program (i.e., the child is not within your county/county joiner or in the age range of children you serve), please email [dbchildcount@pattan.net](mailto:dbchildcount@pattan.net).

**The Deaf-Blind Child Count website is:** [https://www.leaderservices.com/ DBcensus](https://www.leaderservices.com/DBcensus).

The process for entering information is as follows:

### **For Early Intervention Programs:**

- Log in with your username and password.
- If you do not know or cannot remember your username or password for the Deaf-Blind Child Count, use the “Forget your Login Info” link on the Deaf-Blind Child Count website to have the information emailed to you.

### **For School Districts and Charter Schools:**

- Log in using your LEA AUN number as the username.
- The password for the system is the same password that the LEA or you use to access the Special Education monitoring system.

- If you do not know the password, use the “Forget your Login Info” link on the Deaf-Blind Child Count website to have the information emailed to you.

**For Preschool Early Intervention Providers:**

- Log in using your Early Intervention Provider PELICAN ID as the username.
- If you do not know or cannot remember the password for the Deaf-Blind Child Count, use the “Forget your Login Info” link on the Deaf-Blind Child Count website to have the information emailed to you.

If you have any questions regarding the data collection system or your responsibilities for entering child data into the Deaf-Blind Child Count, please email [dbchildcount@pattan.net](mailto:dbchildcount@pattan.net).