



Division of Elementary and Secondary Education

Transforming Arkansas to lead the nation in student-focused education

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Date: January 8, 2024

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Dear LEA and/or Agency Administrator,

The CAYSI Deafblind Program - Children And Youth with Sensory Impairments is asking you to review and update the students in your district who have previously been identified on the registry as having dual sensory impairments. The most recent data we have is in our updated database system. Please note, there are slight changes to our reporting this year, required by the National Center on Deafblindness, which submits the data to the Office of Special Education Programs.

Attached are the instructions to verify the data for each identified child and make any changes, additions, or deletions where appropriate. In accordance with Act 1181 of 2015, you are not required to complete the areas in the IDEA section. We will obtain that data from the December 1 child count.

Children do not have to be identified as DeafBlind as their *primary* disability on your December 1 Child Count for them to be determined as having dual sensory impairments for purposes of this Project. For example, if a child is identified as having Multiple Disabilities (MD), an Intellectual Disability (ID), or a Vision or Hearing Impairment (VI, HI), the child may also have vision and hearing impairment combined and would qualify for our program. Or, in the case of a child in Part C who has a Developmental Delay (DD), the child may have or be at risk of having dual sensory impairment and would qualify.

If the child has moved to another district, please email the name of the receiving district and the date of transfer so we can follow up with that district. For each child that the district believes may qualify as having combined hearing and vision loss and is not currently on the DeafBlind registry, or if a district is unsure about a child's eligibility, please get in touch with CAYSI staff who can review the child's information and assist in determining eligibility.

The updated form is due by **February 29, 2024**.

Thank you for your assistance and prompt response to this request. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact the CAYSI team at 501-682-4222 or email [Tracey Soto](mailto:Tracey.Soto@desd.net).

Sincerely,

Dr. Jeff Adams
Director of Special Programs
Arkansas Department of Education

Stacey Tatera, M.S.E
CAYSI Project Director
Arkansas Department of Education