

WV e-folio

- In partnership with WVDE, Office of Communication, WV SenseAbilities project staff worked with WVDE's webmaster to design an interactive password-protected site for each child that receives targeted or intensive technical assistance. Co-owned by the project staff and the family, targeted information, webinars and video clips specific to the child will be housed and archived through the years. The "home page" for each child will include specific information about vision, hearing and communication including necessary accommodations and intervention strategies.

Building Effective Student Teams (BEST)

- Provide combination of three face-to-face trainings with classroom/home on-site and monthly distance technology contacts for three children and their teams. These teams will be selected because they are at major transition points. Commitment of team, administration and family will be required. SenseAbilities will provide the training and follow-up with use of the child's efolio and other distance technology tools.



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2018-2019

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West Virginia DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

Steven L. Paine, Ed.D.
State Superintendent of Schools

West Virginia SenseAbilities Project



WV SenseAbilities
Serving children with combined vision and
hearing loss in West Virginia

for Children
with Combined Vision
and Hearing Loss

West Virginia Department of Education
Division of Teaching & Learning
Office of Special Education
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Foreword

The West Virginia Department of Education implements a statewide project to provide services to children who are deafblind. The objectives of the West Virginia SenseAbilities Project focus on the provision of technical assistance and training to create appropriate educational opportunities for children who are deafblind and their families. This brochure was designed to provide an awareness of the project for families, service providers, and other interested persons.



Steven L. Paine, Ed. D.
State Superintendent of Schools

Definition of Deafblindness

Children with hearing and visual impairments occurring together, the combination of which causes such severe communication and other developmental and educational problems that they cannot be appropriately educated in special education programs solely for children with deafness or blindness, are considered deafblind.

Infants and toddlers who:

- *from birth through age 2 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.*

Services Available

Identification of children birth through 21 with combined vision and hearing loss in West Virginia.

Technical Assistance and Training for families, early interventionists, service providers, and others based on mutually defined needs.

Targeted Technical Assistance and Training based on individual student needs and requests from teachers, service providers, families and early interventionists provided in the home, at school, or where appropriate for the individual student.

Training with topics centered on common needs and concerns. Website videos and articles on a variety of topics related to the needs of children and youth with deafblindness.

<https://wvde.us/special-education/resources-sp-page/low-incidence-disabilities/>

This consists of four sections: Blindness and Low Vision, Deafness/Hard of Hearing, Deafblindness or Combined Vision and Hearing Loss, Cortical Visual Impairment. Under each category there is a Fact Sheet and a link to Resources.

Coordination of Services with other programs such as the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources, the Division of Rehabilitation Services, state operated programs and other agencies and individuals.

Clearinghouse of information and resources for families, service providers and community.

Intervener Training

- An intervener is a person who works consistently one-to-one with an individual who has combined vision and hearing loss and has specialized training and skills in deafblindness
- An intervener provides a bridge to the world for the student with sensory loss. The intervener helps the student gather information, learn concepts and skills, develop communication and language and establish relationships that lead to greater independence. The project will offer specialized training and coaching for a limited number of interveners per year.

Early identification and intervention services

- WV SenseAbilities works closely with WV Birth to Three and other agencies serving children with sensory loss to ensure the earliest possible identification and services. WV SenseAbilities offers training of early interventionists, participates in Camp Gizmo and Celebrating Connections, and collaborates with early intervention agencies.

Who can request services?

Any parent, family member or care provider for a child, birth through 21 years, with deafblindness, or any professional involved in providing services to such a child.

Phone 304.558.2696

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