



Intervener Services for Students Who Are Deafblind Fact Sheet

Being Deafblind can severely limit access to visual and auditory information that forms the basis for learning and communication, and this creates real challenges for educational systems. Intervener services can help meet the challenges of providing students with access to communication and information they are unable to gather via vision and hearing. As such, they help provide students who are deafblind with a free and appropriate education in the least restrictive environment possible.

What is an Intervener?

An intervener has specialized training in providing one-to-one support for students who are deafblind in the following areas:

- Helping them gain access to information and communication in the classroom
- Facilitating their social development and emotional well-being
- Supporting their communication and concept development

An intervener is a member of the student's educational team, working under a classroom teacher's direction. In the United States, state deafblind projects and university programs are the primary sources of intervener training. Coaching and supervision, in addition to coursework, are essential.

Learn if an Intervener is appropriate for a student who is deafblind by reviewing the discussion guide. As with any related service, IEP teams review evaluation data to determine a child's needs. [*IEP Team Discussion Guide: Are Intervener Services Appropriate for Your Student With Deaf-Blindness?*](#)

The discussion guide can be a helpful resource for the team. The National Center on Deafblindness has a wealth of additional resources on interveners at <https://www.nationaldb.org/national-initiatives/igp/intervener-tools/>.

National Center on Deafblindness, October 2023

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Becoming an Intervener

<https://marylanddb.org/intervener-2/>

At Connections Beyond Sight and Sound, the Maryland and DC Deafblind Project we partner with Central Michigan University (CMU) for future interveners to receive a national credential by an accredited college program. Please visit our website under Qualified Personnel to learn more.

Learn More

<https://dvidb.exceptionalchildren.org/dvidb-publications/vidbeq-issues>

1. Our partner, DB Central from MI is offering a **webinar** to provide information and answer questions for **anyone** who wants to learn more about the role of the intervener and how they are trained. Wed, May 8, 2024, 3:00-4:30 p.m. Register: <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYud-GsqTijHtwGPgfV9hjZWL--l6LYIJez>
2. Our partner, DB Central from MI is also offering a **virtual discussion exclusively for administrators**. Log in to talk with other administrators who employ one or more interveners or are considering hiring an intervener for one or more students. Thurs, May 9, 2024, Noon-1:00 p.m. Register: <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwrf-mhgDosEtMlv89CrDj9lotaGliM5Ns1>

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