


PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION | Mark Johnson, *Superintendent of Public Instruction*

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Directors, Exceptional Children Programs
Lead Administrators, Charter Schools
Directors, State Operated Programs
Directors, Private Educational Agencies

FROM: Sherry H. Thomas, Director 
Exceptional Children Division

RE: **Annual North Carolina Deaf-Blind Census**

It is time for the Exceptional Children Division to collect data for the Annual Census of Students with Deaf-Blindness (DB). This report is required of states receiving federal funding. The count is a point-in-time snapshot and should reflect those individuals identified and eligible for services from the state deaf-blind project on December 1, 2018 of the current reporting period. Students for this year's census should be identified from your December 1st headcount. Please note, students may be placed on the DB Census even though they have been identified with a different eligibility category. Most students with vision and hearing deficits are identified as having multiple disabilities.

"Deaf-Blindness means co-occurring hearing and visual impairments, the combination of which causes significant communication, mobility, and other developmental challenges that adversely affect and child's access to the educational and physical environment and adversely affect a child's educational performance." The term includes "children who are deaf-blind and have additional disabilities and those who function as deaf-blind due to a significant cognitive, medical, or processing disability". Source: The National Center on Deaf-Blindness. A primary eligibility of Deaf-Blindness is not required for a student to be on the census. Many students with significant intellectual disabilities, communication/language delay, and multiple disabilities meet the requirement for inclusion on the census.

Additional information regarding the NC Deaf-Blind Project can also be found on the following web page: <http://ec.ncpublicschools.gov/disability-resources/deaf-blind>.

The link to the 2018 DB census is: https://ncdpi.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_2sPfkUc7xUaByct

For your convenience, a FAQ document is also attached with this memo.

Please complete and submit the online census for each student in your area who may meet the deaf-blind eligibility requirement by March 18, 2019.

If you have questions about the NC Deaf-Blind Project, student eligibility, or the Annual Deaf-Blind Census, please contact Dottie Snyder, Director of the North Carolina Deaf-Blind Project, at 919.807.3989 or dorothy.snyder@dpi.nc.gov.

EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN DIVISION

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