



## WHO WE ARE

The Ohio Center for Deafblind Education (OCDBE) is a statewide project designed to provide technical assistance, training, distance education, and networking information to families, teachers, and service providers of individuals from birth through age 21 who have hearing and vision loss.

The Ohio Center for Deafblind Education is committed to supporting families, teachers, and service providers in their endeavors to improve outcomes for children and youth who experience both hearing-vision loss. Through technical assistance, training, and information sharing, we aspire to improve the quality of life for people who are deafblind as they live in their homes, learn in their schools, socialize in their communities, and access the services they choose.

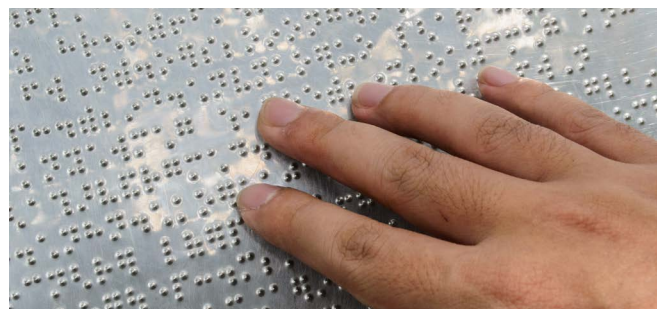
OCDBE's goal is to continuously strengthen and extend the capacity of Ohio's Pre-K-12 education system to prepare children who are deafblind to be college/career ready upon graduation, improving each child's opportunity to live independently, be economically self-sufficient, and be a full and participating member of his/her larger community.

## ABOUT DEAFBLINDNESS

Deafblindness is a complex term. It is often mistakenly thought to apply only to individuals who do not see or hear anything. However, it actually applies to individuals with varying degrees and types of both hearing-vision loss.

The combined effect of hearing-vision loss can dramatically impact how an individual can access information and communication. It is critically important to ensure that children and young adults with deafblindness have access to their home, school, and community environments to give them the opportunity to learn and communicate.

The Ohio Department of Education, Office for Exceptional Children defines deafblindness as: "concomitant hearing-vision impairments, the combination of which causes such severe communication and other developmental and educational needs that they cannot be accommodated in special education programs solely for children with deafness or children with blindness" (Ohio Operating Standards for the Education of Children with Disabilities, July 1, 2014).



## WHAT WE DO

### Professional Learning, Training, & Consultation

OCDBE provides a variety of services, including no-cost professional learning opportunities, trainings, and consultation (also referred to as Deafblind Technical Assistance Program or DBTAP) to families, service providers, and educators (e.g., teachers, intervention specialists, related services personnel, administrators) who support children with combined hearing-vision loss. OCDBE uses a tiered model to ensure statewide reach in the dissemination of information and in the provision of services of varying intensity and duration. OCDBE holds an annual retreat for parents/family members of children registered on the Ohio census. Examples of professional learning/training opportunities include:

- Developing intervener-like competencies
- Using LifeCourse planning
- Using effective assessment and intervention
- Using Protactile communication
- Understanding behavior and communication
- And more...

“ Thank you to Lynne and the entire OCDBE team for hosting an incredible parent retreat. We look forward to this every spring.”

—Suzanne P., Parent of Deafblind Child

Retreats, trainings, and consultation services are available on the website: [www.ohiodeafblind.org](http://www.ohiodeafblind.org). More information about the National Child Count can be found at <https://nationaldb.org/>.

### Census

It is important that students with combined hearing-vision loss are identified early, correctly, and registered online through the Ohio Deafblind Census. Each year, state projects serving children who are deafblind report on the number of children identified in their state, contributing to the National Child Count. Census information is used to determine the level of federal funding to support the provision of training and services for families, school districts, and agency personnel.

The most recent census information indicates that about 400 of the country's 10,000 deafblind census registrants were from Ohio.

The Ohio Center for Deafblind Education census registration is available on the website: [www.ohiodeafblind.org](http://www.ohiodeafblind.org).

### Resource Lending Library

OCDBE has a Resource Lending Library from which families and professionals can borrow. Materials including resource books, curricula, modules, journals, videotapes, CDs and DVDs are available for families and educational staff to utilize as they work to achieve success for children who are deafblind.

“ The parent roadmap was so helpful in knowing what was ahead for us. The basic communication techniques and ideas for relationship building with other parents have helped us get started.”

—Byron R., Parent of Deafblind Child

The Ohio Center for Deafblind Education resources can be found on the website: [www.ohiodeafblind.org](http://www.ohiodeafblind.org) or by contacting the Center directly.



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*The Ohio Center for Deafblind Education is primarily supported through a grant (#H326T180011) with the Research to Practice Division, Office of Special Education Programs, U.S. Department of Education. Additional support for targeted activities is provided by the Ohio Department of Education, Office for Exceptional Children. Opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect those of the U.S. Department of Education or Offices within it, and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government. Project Officer, Susan Weigert.*