

Intervener Services for Children Who Are Deaf-Blind

A challenge faced by schools serving children who are deaf-blind is how to provide access to visual and auditory information, instruction, and social relationships that are unavailable due to severely limited vision and hearing. Intervener services are one practical solution to this challenge. [See the number of students with deaf-blindness in your state.](#)

Intervener Services Definition

In educational environments, intervener services are typically provided by a paraeducator who has received specialized training in deaf-blindness and the process of intervention. For more information see:

- [Intervener Services and Interveners in Educational Settings](#)
- [NCDB Intervener Services Recommendations: Overview](#)

Interveners as a Related Service

See [Are Intervener Services Appropriate for Your Student with Deaf-Blindness?: An IEP Team Discussion Guide](#), to help teams make informed decisions about whether an intervener should be provided as part of a student's related services and supplementary aids and services.

Intervener Training Programs

Check with your [state deaf-blind project](#) to see if it offers intervener training. There are also two online training programs that accept participants from anywhere in the country:

- [Central Michigan University](#)
- [Utah State University](#)

Certification/Credentialing

There are two portfolio-based assessments available that can help determine whether interveners have met the knowledge and skill competencies outlined in the [Council for Exceptional Children's intervener standards](#):

- [National Intervener Certification E-Portfolio](#) (Paraprofessional Resource and Research Center)
- [National Intervener Credential](#) (National Resource Center for Paraeducators)

State Success Stories

Several states have made great progress in providing an infrastructure for intervener services. These are described in [Increasing Recognition and Use of Interveners: State Success Stories](#).

Family Perspectives

For family perspectives on the use of interveners, see the [quotes from parents on this OSERS web page](#) (begin halfway down) and [these video clips from NCDB](#).

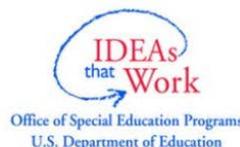
Learn More

The following resources provide additional information about the role of the intervener and the principles of intervention:

- [NCDB Interveners and Qualified Personnel Initiative](#) (webpage)
- [Interveners at Work](#) (3-minute video)
- [The Role of Interveners in Educational Settings](#) (training module)
- [Educational Interveners for Children Who Are Deafblind](#) (factsheet)
- [A Family's Guide to Interveners for Children with Combined Vision and Hearing Loss](#) (booklet)
- [The Intervener in Early Intervention and Educational Settings for Children and Youth With Deafblindness](#) (briefing paper)
- [Intervener Interviews](#) (webpage)

Technical Assistance and Information

- Your [state deaf-blind project](#) - the best resource in your state for information about all aspects of deaf-blindness
- [National Center on Deaf-Blindness](#) - contact Linda McDowell, Project Director, for information about interveners and the work NCDB is conducting in this area (mcdowelll@wou.edu; 503-838-8503)



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