

# Deaf-Blind

The North Dakota Deaf-Blind Services Project (NDDSP) is a federally funded free resource designed to enhance the provision of services for children and young adults, birth through age 21, who are deaf-blind. The mission statement of the NDDSP is to improve the education and services for children with deaf-blindness and their families in North Dakota. We accomplish this through training, mentorship, resource dissemination, and technical assistance.

The NDDSP provides technical assistance and training to families and service providers. Members of the Statewide Technical Assistance Team provide the technical assistance. Each region of the state has identified team members.

The NDDSP equips families, local educators, and other professionals with the knowledge and skills needed to improve child outcomes by offering the following:

- On-site observations
- Program consultations
- Workshops/conferences
- In-services
- Resource library materials
- Assistance in identification
- Newsletter and project mailings
- Community resource referrals
- Deaf-Blind registry data
- Links to other families

# DUAL SENSORY IMPAIRMENT

To meet the condition of deaf-blindness and/or receive technical assistance from the ND Deaf-Blind Services Project, a child (0-21 yrs of age) must meet at least one of the conditions in both vision and hearing categories and be eligible for special services.

ND DB

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# Hearing

1. A diagnosed hearing impairment should be verified by a licensed audiologist in at least one of the following areas:
  - Hearing impairment of 25 dB or greater in at least one ear
  - Diagnosed syndrome/disorder associated with hearing loss or progressive hearing loss
  - History of chronic otitis media (ear infections) that impacts hearing ability
  - Diagnosis of Central Auditory Processing Disorder—inability of a person to process auditory information even though the sound reaches the brain and the peripheral hearing system is intact
2. Demonstrates a need for consultation of special hearing services from a certified educator of the hearing impaired.
  - Whenever the medically documented hearing impairment is so severe that the child is impaired in processing linguistic information, with or without amplification, an assessment battery and/or functional hearing assessment should be completed and educational services should be made available

# Vision

1. A measured/diagnosed visual problem as verified by written report from a licensed ophthalmologist or optometrist in at least one of the following areas:
  - Visual acuity of 20/70 or less in the better eye with best correction
  - Visual field of 20 degrees or less
  - Lesions/tumors affecting visual tracking causing visual limitations
  - Degenerating eye conditions such as progressive cataract, glaucoma, retinitis pigmentosa, etc.
  - Is undergoing medical treatment for an eye problem causing limitations in sight such as patching
  - Experiences significant eye strain, fatigue, or other vision related problems
  - Diagnosis of Cortical Visual Impairment (CVI)

# Vision

2. Demonstrates a need for consultation or special vision services from a certified educator of the visually impaired.
  - Whenever the medically documented visual limitations impact learning as verified by an assessment battery and functional vision testing, educational services must be made available.
3. The student demonstrates a deficit in visual development based on chronological and/or ability in one or more of the following areas:
  - Social development
  - Academic development
  - Physical development
  - Visual development
  - Orientation to the environment
  - Movement within the environment