

INTERVENERS FOR STUDENTS WITH DEAFBLINDNESS



Deafblind intervener training competencies and ethics are recognized by the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC)

Contact the Texas Deafblind Project at Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired at 512-206-9225 for more information



What is an intervener?

- A paraprofessional with specific knowledge and skills in deafblindness (see CEC Standards for Interveners)
- A bridge, not a barrier, between the student and the world
- A trained, consistent communication partner with deafblind-specific methods and strategies for providing access to instruction
- An essential member of the educational team

Why do some students with deafblindness need an intervener?

- Deafblindness is an information gathering disability. Interveners provide access to information usually available through vision or hearing.
- Sensory loss limits independent exploration and interaction which is the basis for cognitive, social and language development.
- Access to a consistent communication partner is necessary for learning to occur.
- Highly individualized communication systems and equipment may be necessary to engage with the world.
- Lack of engagement with the world may result in withdrawn or disruptive behaviors and be a barrier to learning.
- Consistency and routines reduce stress and provide predictability.

How do interveners differ from other paraprofessionals?

- Are assigned to a child, not a classroom
- Provide a consistent, trusted learning and communication partner for the student
- Provide access to learning using deafblind-specific strategies
- Support implementation of the IEP and are part of the educational team