

# INTERVENERS FOR STUDENTS WHO ARE DEAFBLIND



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

Contact the [Texas DeafBlind Project](#) at Texas School for Blind and Visually Impaired 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 who are deafblind 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- Lack of engagement with the world may result in withdrawn or disruptive behaviors and be a barrier to learning.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