



Fact Sheet

Colorado Services for Children and Youth with Combined Vision and Hearing Loss (Deafblindness)

The Colorado Services for Children and Youth with Combined Vision and Hearing Loss is a project funded through a federal grant from the Office of Special Education Programs. The major objective of the project is to assist parents, families, and professionals in providing appropriate learning, literacy, and living opportunities for individuals with deafblindness between the ages of birth to 21. The mission of the project is to provide technical assistance inservice training, program consultation, lending library access, website materials, and newsletters to families, educators, and others involved with individuals with deafblindness. These services are provided at **no cost** to families and service providers of children who are deafblind (having both vision and hearing impairment).

Colorado Services for Children with Combined Vision and Hearing Loss:

State Technical Assistance Specialists: Specialists in many aspects of combined vision and hearing impairments may be called upon to visit the home, school, classroom, and community to provide technical assistance (consultation, inservice training, program design and review) about effective teaching strategies and materials.

Family Specialists: Parents of children or youth with combined vision and hearing loss are available to talk to other families by phone or in person. The Family Specialists also create special mailings for the families of children and youth on the Colorado Census.

Newsletter: The project's newsletter *VIBRATIONS* is published and disseminated three times a year. Each newsletter has a theme topic. The newsletter is free to all interested persons and is also posted to the project's website.

Website: The project website has electronic copies of FACT Sheets, past newsletters, the lending library inventory, and resource information. It is updated on a regular basis.

Web address: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/Deafblind.asp> or go to www.cde.state.co.us (and type the word deafblind in the search box).

Summer Institute: Nationally recognized experts in the field of deafblindness and significant support needs present an annual summer workshop, which is offered for university credit. The training is typically 2.5 days and is offered in a mountain location.

Parent Training: The project sponsors an annual training for parents and other adult family members who would like to learn more about deafblindness. The focus is on family networking and hands-on learning.

Lending Library: A lending library is maintained with up-to-date books, articles, workshop materials, videotapes, and manuals related to the topic of vision and hearing loss. A current directory is available upon request and on the project's website. Lending library materials are mailed out upon request.

Deafblind Student Census: When a child qualifies as having a combined vision and hearing loss, according to the Colorado ECEA definition, the child is registered with the Colorado State Deafblind Census. On an annual basis, the state and federal governments collect demographic and educational data on the children between the ages of birth through 21 who have been identified with a combined vision and hearing loss. The purpose of this data collection is to help in planning for personnel, educational, and transitional services. These data are also one factor the U.S. Office of Special Programs uses to determine the funding level of the project. All information is kept strictly confidential as stated in the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.

Once a child qualifies due to combined vision and hearing loss (deafblindness), the family and/or professionals working with the child are eligible to request services from the Colorado Services to Children with Deafblindness Project. Services are only provided by invitation/request from the families or service providers. Obtain a copy of the **Technical Assistance Form** by calling project staff and from the project's website.

For more information about the Colorado Services for Children and Youth with Combined Vision and Hearing Loss project, please contact:

Tanni Anthony
Colorado Department of Education
Exceptional Student Leadership Unit
1560 Broadway, Suite 1175
Denver, CO 80202

Phone: (303) 866-6681
Fax: (303) 866-6767
TTY: (303) 860-7060
Anthony_t@cde.state.co.us

Gina Quintana
Colorado Department of Education
Exceptional Student Leadership Unit
1560 Broadway, Suite 1175
Denver, CO 80202

Phone: (303) 866-6605
Fax: (303) 866-6767
TTY: (303) 860-7060
Quintana_g@cde.state.co.us