



The following slides provide guidance on the eligibility category, definition, and criteria for “child with a Deaf-Blindness” in Colorado public schools.

These slides may also be found within the Comprehensive Overview Training PowerPoint, which provides guidance on every eligibility category.

If these slides are used as a self-standing training tool, it is recommended that they be supplemented with the posted slides specific to the HB11-1277 Overview, which can be found at: http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/Training_ECEAEligibility.asp

The HB11-1277 Overview slides will detail the history and timelines of implementation of the new eligibility categories, definitions, and criteria.

Together We Can

Vision

All students in Colorado will become educated and productive citizens capable of succeeding in a globally competitive workforce.

Mission

The mission of CDE is to shape, support, and safeguard a statewide education system that prepares all students for success in a globally competitive world.

Deaf-Blindness

- The following slides have been vetted internally within the Colorado Department of Education for training purposes of the definition and eligibility criteria for Deaf-Blindness.
- If you make any changes to these slides, please acknowledge that they are different from this vetted product and may no longer represent the viewpoint of the CDE.

Eligibility Checklist for Deaf-Blindness

- It is recommended that the following training slides be used in conjunction with the Eligibility Checklist for a Child with Deaf-Blindness, which can be found at:

http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/IEP_Forms.asp

DEAF-BLINDNESS

Deaf-Blindness (now a self-standing eligibility category)

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If there are any questions about the definition and eligibility criteria for Deaf-Blindness, please be in contact with Tanni Anthony at anthony_t@cde.state.co.us or (303) 866-6681.

If there are any questions about whether a specific child meets the established criteria for Deaf-Blindness, please be in contact with the administrative unit's Special Education Director.

2.08 (12) A child with Deaf-blindness has concomitant hearing and visual impairments, the combination of which causes such severe communication and other developmental and educational needs that they cannot be accommodated in special education programs solely for children with deafness or children with blindness. A child may qualify as an eligible child with Deaf-blindness by meeting one of the following criteria:

2.08 (12) (a) The child shall have a deficiency in hearing sensitivity as demonstrated by an elevated threshold of auditory sensitivity to pure tones or speech, as specified in section 2.08(2)(a) and (b); and a deficiency in visual acuity and/or visual field and/or visual functioning, as specified in section 2.08(11)(a) and (b), where, even with the help of amplification and/or use of lenses or corrective devices, he/she is prevented

The next two slides include the exact wording of a Child with a Deaf-Blindness eligibility criteria that are in the current *Rules for the Administration of the Exceptional Children's Educational Act 1 CCR 301-8*

from receiving reasonable educational benefit from general education; or

2.08 (12) (b) The child has documented hearing and/or visual impairment that, if considered individually per section 2.08(2)(a) and (b) and section 2.08 (11)(a) and (b), may not meet the requirements for Hearing Impairment, Including Deafness or Visual Impairment, Including Blindness, but the combination of such losses adversely affect the student's educational performance; or

2.08 (12) (c) The child has a documented medical diagnosis of a progressive medical condition that will result in concomitant hearing and visual losses.

Deaf-Blindness

- A child with Deaf-blindness has **concomitant hearing and visual impairments**, the combination of which causes such severe communication and other developmental and educational needs that they **cannot be accommodated in special education programs solely for children with deafness or children with blindness.**
- The child has both a Hearing Impairment, Including Deafness (HID) **AND** a Visual Impairment, Including Blindness (VIB).

HID + VIB ≠ The whole story on Deaf-Blindness (not simply additive)

HID X VIB = Deaf-Blindness (combination is exponential)

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The IEP team will complete THREE eligibility checklists for a child with deaf-blindness.

- The Hearing Impairment, including Deafness Eligibility Checklist
- The Visual Impairment including Blindness Eligibly Checklist
- The Deaf-Blindness Eligibility Checklist

To Be Eligible as a Child with Deaf-Blindness

- The child shall have a **deficiency in hearing sensitivity** as demonstrated by an elevated threshold of auditory sensitivity to pure tones or speech, as specified in section **2.08(2)(a) and (b)**; **and a deficiency in visual acuity and/or visual field and/or visual functioning**, as specified in section **2.08(11)(a) and (b)**, where, even with the help of amplification and/or use of lenses or corrective devices, he/she is prevented from receiving reasonable educational benefit from general education.
- In this situation, **the child meets the ECEA eligibility criteria for Hearing Impairment, Including Deafness AND Visual Impairment, Including Blindness.**

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This is one of three possible eligibility scenarios for the child with Deaf-Blindness.

To Be Eligible as a Child with Deaf-Blindness

- **The child has documented hearing and/or visual impairment that, if considered individually per section 2.08(2)(a) and (b) and section 2.08 (11)(a) and (b), **may not meet the requirements** for Hearing Impairment, Including Deafness or Deaf-Blindness, **but the combination of such losses adversely affect the student's educational performance.****
- **In this situation, the child **may not meet all** the required ECEA criteria for Hearing Impairment, Including Deafness and Visual Impairment, Including Blindness, but there is evidence that the combined loss requires specially designed instruction.**

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This is one of three possible eligibility scenarios for the child with Deaf-Blindness.

In this scenario, there are three different ways that a child may be found to be eligible to be Deaf-Blind.

The child may meet the required ECEA eligibility criteria for Hearing Impairment, Including Deafness (HID), but “not quite” the criteria for Visual Impairment, Including Blindness (VIB). For example, the child’s acuity in the better eye (with correction) is 20/60 or 20/50. However, the combination of the established hearing impairment with the documented visual needs may result in the need for specialized services for the child. In this circumstance, there is a special box on the *Deaf-Blindness Eligibility Checklist* for the IEP team to check.

Conversely, the child may meet the required ECEA eligibility criteria for Deaf-Blindness, but “not quite” meet the eligibility criteria for Hearing Impairment, Including Deafness. For example, the child’s hearing loss may fall just below the established criteria of HID. However, the combination of the established vision impairment with the documented hearing loss may result in the need for specialized services for the child. In this circumstance, there is a special box on the *Hearing Impairment, Including Deafness Eligibility Checklist* for the IEP team to check.

The final scenario for this eligibility situation would occur if the child does not quite meet either set of criteria for HID or VIB, but the documented combined hearing and vision loss results in the need for specialized services for the child. In this circumstance, the special box on the HID and VIB eligibility forms should be checked.

To Be Eligible as a Child with Deaf-Blindness

- The child has a documented medical diagnosis of a progressive medical condition that will result in concomitant hearing and visual losses.

- In this situation, the child may have **one static and one progressive hearing / visual impairment OR may have a progressive dual loss** and there is evidence that the combined loss requires specially designed instruction

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This is one of three possible eligibility scenarios for the child with Deaf-blindness

In this situation, the child may have a static vision or hearing impairment AND a progressive vision or hearing impairment. Or a progressive vision and hearing impairment.

Specially Designed Instruction

- “Specially Designed Instruction” means adapting, as appropriate to the needs of an eligible child, the content, methodology or delivery of instruction to address the child's unique needs resulting from the disability and ensuring the child's access to the general curriculum so that he or she can meet the educational standards that apply to all children within jurisdiction of the public agency. 34 CFR 300.39 (b)(3).
- It involves providing instruction that is different from that provided to children without disabilities, based upon the eligible child's unique needs.

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To qualify as a child with Deaf-Blindness, there must be evidence that the child cannot receive reasonable educational benefit from general education without specially designed instruction.

To Be Eligible as DB, the Child Must Meet All Three Conditions

- 1. There must be evidence of a combined vision and hearing impairment (deaf-blindness), by appropriate professionals (audiologist, eye doctor).**
- 2. The combined vision impairment and the hearing impairment (deaf-blindness) must be significant enough that even with the help of amplification and/or use of lenses or corrective devices, he/she is prevented from receiving reasonable educational benefit from general education.**
- 3. The combined vision and hearing loss (deaf-blindness) must create a need for specially designed instruction.**

Thank You!

