



PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION | Catherine Truitt, *Superintendent of Public Instruction*

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TO: Directors, Exceptional Children Programs
Exceptional Children Coordinators, Charter Schools
Directors, State-Operated Programs
Directors, Private Educational Agencies
Directors, Child Development Services Agencies

FROM: Sherry H. Thomas *SA7*

DATE: February 1, 2023

ANNUAL NORTH CAROLINA DEAF-BLIND CENSUS

It is time for the Office of Exceptional Children and the NC DeafBlind Project (NCDBP) to collect data for the Annual Census of Students with Deaf-Blindness which is a requirement of the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) DeafBlind Technical Assistance Grant. The child count is a point-in-time snapshot and should reflect the infants, toddlers, and youth identified from your December 1st headcount. The census will open February 15, 2023, and close March 15, 2023.

DeafBlindness is often mistaken for the total inability to see or hear. Most individuals are not totally blind and profoundly deaf; rather, have varying degrees of hearing and visual loss. When presented in children, this could result in "severe communication and other developmental and educational needs that cannot be accommodated in special education programs solely for children with deafness or children with blindness" (34 CFR 300.8 (c) (2), 2006). **Students may be reported on the DeafBlind Census if they have been found eligible under ANY disability area under Parts B and C of IDEA and have both a vision and a hearing loss.**

This year's census data will be collected in the same manner as last year, through a Qualtrics survey. In the coming weeks, a PDF model of the data that is required will be provided along with the link to the electronic survey. Please note, if an entity has no eligible students to report for the DeafBlind census, it must be reported on the Qualtrics survey.

If you have questions about the annual census for students with DeafBlindness, please contact Dr. Alan Chase, Co-Director of the North Carolina DeafBlind Project, 984-236-2582, alan.chase@dpi.nc.gov.

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EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN DIVISION

Sherry H. Thomas, Director | sherry.thomas@dpi.nc.gov

6356 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-6356 | (984) 236-2550 | Fax (984) 236-2099

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