

Texas State Plan for Students with DeafBlindness

August 2017

This is the first State Plan for Students with DeafBlindness (State DB Plan) in Texas, and was developed with the assistance of stakeholders from around the state, including family members, people with DeafBlindness, local district staff and regional DeafBlind consultants, related agency members, representatives from family organizations, Regional Day School Programs for the Deaf, the Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Texas School for the Deaf and the Texas Education Agency. It is intended to be a tool for identifying needs, setting priorities, and guiding the development and provision of services for students with DeafBlindness.

The TEC §30.002 requires the Texas Education Agency (TEA) to develop “a comprehensive statewide plan for the education of students with visual impairments who are under 21 years of age”. This state law requires the agency to develop a statewide plan that addresses: diagnosis and evaluation of students with visual impairments, education programs for students with visual impairments and the provision of educational services to students with visual impairments in their home communities whenever possible. Students with DeafBlindness will benefit from provisions designed for students with visual impairment. The State DB Plan complements those goals and specifically addresses the unique needs of a subset of those students who also have hearing loss.

The State DB Plan is data driven to promote continuous improvement of services for students with DeafBlindness. It is dynamic and intended to serve as a blueprint for future efforts.

Goal 1: Increase identification of students with DeafBlindness in Texas

Indicators:

- **Increase the number of 0-5 year olds on the Texas DB Child Count.**
 - Baseline 2017: 115 students

- **Increase the overall number of students appropriately identified as DB**
 - Baseline 2017: 706 students

Goal 2: Ensure that there are qualified personnel in Texas to provide services to students who are DeafBlind

Indicators:

- *Professional: Expand dissemination of information and resources to assure greater access to **pre-service** training programs for professionals to include community college and university coursework.*
 - Baseline 2017 teacher preparation:
 - The LID supported 11 students this year to TTU courses;
 - CAT-SI grant has 3 enrolled TX students in first cohort; a second cohort is being recruited Summer 2017.
 - Baseline 2017 professional preparation:
 - 8 completers of the TTU DB graduate certificate;
 - 16 currently enrolled in TTU DB teacher prep
- *Paraprofessional: Expand dissemination of information and resources to assure greater access to **pre-service** training for interveners/paraprofessionals working with students who are DeafBlind to include community college and university coursework*
 - Baseline 2017 paraprofessional:
 - ▶ 23 have participated in Utah coursework
 - ▶ 12 have received National Intervener Credentialing administered through the National Resource Center for Paraeducators and Related Service Providers (NRCP)
 - ▶ 0 currently enrolled in Michigan University coursework - 0
 - ▶ 0 NICE credentials awarded to Texas personnel
- *Expanded number of In-service trainings provided by the LID ESC DB Consultants in collaboration with the VI and DHH consultants.*
 - Baseline 2017: Of 14 ESCs reporting, there were 40 trainings that addressed DB issues.

Goal 3: Increase and promote access for educational teams to information about how to improve evaluation strategies and educational programming.

Indicators:

- *Educational teams are given information about how to improve assessment and educational programming for students with DeafBlindness via online IEP quality indicators (and other indicators of assessment)*
 - Baseline 2017: A DB IEP supplement is in development
 - Baseline 2017: An online IEP quality indicators document is in development; numbers accessing it will be tallied once posted.

Goal 4: Develop effective transition strategies that support meaningful community adult options for students who are DeafBlind.

Indicators:

- *Foster a statewide community for students and their families that connects youth with adult role models*
 - Baseline: 112 members of the Houston PSDB as of summer 2017.
- *Summits around the state facilitate discussion about access to the community.*
 - Baseline: New initiative for 2017-2018; DHH network will report on this project.
- *Active collaboration with families in creating/expanding meaningful adult options in the community.*
 - Baseline: TouchBase, currently serving 5 members with deafblindness that are graduated from high school and 2 more school aged for summer programming.
- *Promote use of OHOA modules related to transition and adult life*
 - Baseline: 2017- 2018 - NFADB and HHSC will begin a joint project