

WHAT DOES DEAF-BLIND MEAN?

Deaf-blindness is a condition in which both a hearing and vision loss are present at the same time.*

The combination of these losses, hearing and vision, creates unique challenges for the individual that cannot be addressed solely within a special education program for the deaf or special education program for the blind.

Deaf-blindness affects more than 10,000 children between birth and 22 years of age in the United States. It affects many children living in our own state.

Deaf-blindness has more than 70 known causes, including Usher's Syndrome, CHARGE Syndrome, meningitis and Rubella Syndrome. Within each of these etiologies, there are specific concerns that carry lifelong challenges. Appropriate education must address both the hearing and vision impairments, as well as any other disabilities that may be present.

***Federal definition of deaf-blindness:**

Concomitant hearing and visual impairments, the combination of which creates such severe communication and other developmental and educational needs that they cannot be accommodated in special education in programs solely for children with deafness or children with blindness. FR Dept. of Education, 34 CFR Part 101

If you suspect a child has both hearing and vision impairments, please contact Mississippi Hearing-Vision Project for further information and support.

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