

**DEAF-BLINDNESS GUIDELINES****Federal Definition of Deaf-Blindness:**

A concomitant hearing and visual impairment, the combination of which causes such severe communication and other developmental and educational needs that it cannot be accommodated in special education programs solely for children with deafness or children with blindness.

**Eligibility:**

A “child with deaf-blindness” means that a child has been evaluated in accordance with the Department’s policies and procedures, determined to have deaf-blindness, and as a result of deaf-blindness, needs special education (i.e. specially designed instruction) and may require related services.

**Criteria:**

- A **vision assessment** conducted by a qualified professional has determined a child:
  - Has a serious visual loss after correction; OR
  - Has diagnosed a child to have a syndrome/disorder associated with vision loss or progressive vision loss; OR
  - Suspects a child to have a visual impairment based on a significant and unanticipated delay in visual attending and/or visual examining; OR
  - Suspects a child to have a visual impairment based on impaired visual-motor functioning resulting from strabismus or cerebral palsy; OR
  - Has diagnosed a child to have nystagmus or amblyopia after the age of six
  
- A **hearing assessment** conducted by a qualified professional has determined a child:
  - Has a hearing loss of at least 25 db in at least one ear; OR
  - Has diagnosed a child to have a syndrome/disorder associated with hearing loss or progressive hearing loss; OR
  - Suspects a child to have a hearing impairment based on significant and unanticipated delay in receptive or expressive speech-language skills; OR
  - Suspects a child to have a hearing impairment based on inconsistent responses to sounds in the natural environment when attending

**Educational Impact:**

The impact of the disability requires **specialized instruction** as it has an **adverse impact** on educational performance and is **not** able to be provided by general education.