



Pennsylvania  
**Department of Education**  
*Bulletin Board*



## Annual DeafBlind Child Count for Infants, Toddlers, Preschoolers, and Students

Annually, the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), requires the Pennsylvania DeafBlind Project to conduct the National DeafBlind Child Count. The DeafBlind Child Count records the number of infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and students who have deafblindness or who are at risk of developing deafblindness, and who are enrolled in early intervention or special education as of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) child count on December 1, 2025.

The count began **with Approved Private School programs in December 2025 and is in the phase for LEAs and Infant Toddler and Preschool Early Intervention Programs in February 2026**. You must verify and submit your information no later than **May 1, 2026**. It is important for Pennsylvania to have an accurate DeafBlind Child Count as this information is tied to funding research, training, and technical assistance for this population of children.

Please be aware that for the DeafBlind Child Count, the federal definition of deafblindness is more inclusive and extensive than the one used for the IDEA child count. Children ages birth through 21 years should be reported in the count if they meet one or more of the following criteria:

1. Infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and students who have a diagnosis of deafblindness and/or receive both vision and hearing support services;
2. Infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and students who have a mild to profound hearing loss and mild to profound vision loss with correction that still requires adaptations or modifications;
3. Infants and toddlers (ages birth-to-three; i.e. Part C) who have a diagnosis that places them at-risk for an intellectual disability with inconsistent responses to visual input and sound. (At-risk means a diagnosis that does not guarantee hearing/vision loss); or
4. Infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and students with multiple disabilities who may demonstrate inconsistent responses to visual input and sound.

It is important for each Early Intervention Program and Local Educational Agency (LEA) to participate in the DeafBlind Child Count.

1. If you **do not** have any infants, toddlers, preschoolers, or students with deafblindness, you will still need to log in and identify that you are not educating anyone with deafblindness at the present time.
2. If you are educating an infant, toddler, preschooler, or student with deafblindness, you will need to either enter a new record or verify information about a child who already exists in the system.
3. School-Age and Preschool Early Intervention Programs are encouraged to work closely with contracted providers (e.g., Approved Private Schools, Charter Schools for the Deaf or Blind) to ensure an accurate count of children.
4. Connecting families of children who are deafblind with supporting networks and information is vital. A feature of the DeafBlind Child Count is a letter which you will be asked to send to the family of each child listed in your count. The letter provides information which will link families to support and information related to deafblindness.

### DeafBlind Child Count – Approved Private School Entries

All Approved Private Schools (APSs) entered their student data prior to the DeafBlind Child Count being opened for Early Intervention Programs, school districts, charter schools, and service providers. While there are few infants and toddlers served at APSs, you may see a child in the DeafBlind Child Count which has been entered by an APS. For those programs with many students who qualify, this will save them valuable time. This was done by all APSs even if there are no students who qualify for the DeafBlind Child Count enrolled in their school. As the Early Intervention Program or LEA for these respective children, you must either confirm that the child is your responsibility or reject them if the child is not within your catchment area or in the age range of children you serve. Please be aware that exceptions may exist. After you confirm that you are the Early Intervention Program or LEA for the child, you can update other data as necessary.

## DeafBlind Child Count – Early Intervention Programs

If you are the Early Intervention Program responsible for providing Early Intervention Services to the entered child, you should confirm that the child is your responsibility. If the child is not the responsibility of your program (i.e., the child is not within your catchment area or in the age range of children you serve), please email [dbchildcount@pattankop.net](mailto:dbchildcount@pattankop.net).

## Log In Information

This year, login has been transitioned to the PDE Integrated Monitoring System, or PDE-IMS.

**If you believe that you should be receiving these communications and need to be added OR should no longer be receiving these communications and need to be removed, please contact your Chief School Administrator.**

When you log into IMS at <https://www.pdeims.com>, the DeafBlind Child Count is labeled as DeafBlind under the Bureau of Special Education section. All functionality in the application remains the same.

If you have any questions regarding the data collection system or your responsibilities for entering child data into the DeafBlind Child Count, please email [dbchildcount@pattankop.net](mailto:dbchildcount@pattankop.net).



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