

Deaf Blindness

Federal Definition

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

State Definition

The Illinois definition is the same as the federal definition stated above.

Diagnostic Criteria

Determinant Factors If the student is not succeeding due to (a) lack of scientifically based practices and programs that contain the essential components of reading, (b) lack of instruction in math, or (c) Limited English Proficiency, the student is not eligible for services under IDEA.

Exclusionary Criteria Deficits cannot be due to environmental, cultural, or economic disadvantages.

Inclusionary Criteria

- Permanent hearing deficit as documented by audiologist
- Permanent loss of visual acuity, visual field loss and/or degenerative eye condition as diagnosed by an ophthalmologist or optometrist.

Adverse Effect Student's IEP requires individual statement of adverse effect.

Adversely affects educational performance in academic achievement, acquisition and execution of functional skills, social/emotional adjustment, communication within the school setting and/or ability to access the general classroom environment independently.