



Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired Outreach Programs

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Coffee Hour

Count Us In! Understanding the Annual VI Registration and Deafblind Child Count

December 15, 2025

Erica Cairns, TSBVI Director of Outreach

Brian Sobeck, TSBVI Information Technology Specialist

Slide 1: Count Us In! Understanding the Annual VI Registration and Deafblind Child Count

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Slide 2: Before We Begin

Before We Begin... Think about a time you've been given a task that sounded simple...

- BUT the instructions are not entirely clear
- "Now... you just fold in the cheese."
- "What does this actually mean?!"

Slide 3: Why We're Here

- Share a brief history of the American Printing House for the Blind (APH) and the Federal Quota Program
- Describe the VI Registration Timeline
- Highlight registration steps
- Answer your questions!

Slide 4: American Printing House for the Blind

- Nonprofit organization since 1858
- Louisville, Kentucky
- Accessible materials and equipment for students who are blind, low vision, or deafblind

Slide 5: The Origin of the Federal Quota Program

The Act to Promote the Education of the Blind

- The Act to Promote the Education of the Blind
- Enacted by Congress in 1879
- Created a permanent annual federal appropriation
- Ensured access to specialized educational materials
- Established the foundation for today's Federal Quota Program

Slide 6: Mandate

- Act named APH as the official national source for educational materials
- Ensured a centralized, standardized system for producing materials for legally blind students

Slide 7: Funding Structure

- The Act guarantees ongoing federal dollars each year
- Funds are used to create braille, tactile, and accessible educational materials; assistive technology; and educational aids
- Provides long-term stability for schools and states

Slide 8: Allocation to States

- States receive funds based on an annual census of eligible students
- This census is conducted by APH
- More students counted = more funds for accessible materials and equipment

Slide 9: Quota Funds Today

- Annual VI Registration determines how much funding is available for qualifying students in each state through APH Quota
- Quota funds are placed into one large pot for the entire state of Texas
- Funds are not allocated to specific students
- TEA is the fiscal agent of the Quota Funds
- TSBVI manages the funds to purchase APH Quota materials/equipment based on requests for qualifying students

Slide 10: Funding Timeline

- Quota funds become available each year on October 1
- Once the annual allocation is spent, no additional funds are available until the next October 1

Slide 11: Who Qualifies for Quota Funds

- Students who are legally blind
 - Meet Definition of Blindness (MDB)
 - Meet Functional Definition of Blindness (MFDB)
- Meet the IDEA definition
 - Visual impairment, including blindness, means an impairment in vision that, even with correction, adversely affects a child's educational performance. The term includes both partial sight and blindness.

Slide 12: National Center on Deafblindness and the Deafblind Child Count

- NCDB is responsible for the DBCC
- Vehicle to meet federal grant requirements for the state Deafblind Projects
- Students with qualifying conditions on the VI Registration will be populated on the DBCC
- Student information will also need to be completed on the DBCC platform

Slide 13: Let's Talk Deafblind Eligibility

Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §89.1040. Eligibility Criteria:

Deaf-blindness: A student with deaf-blindness is one who has been determined to meet the criteria for deaf-blindness as stated in 34 CFR, §300.8(c)(2): a student with deaf-blindness is one who, based on the evaluations specified in subsections (c)(3) and (c)(12) of this section

Slide 14: Let's Talk Deafblind Eligibility (A & B)

(A) meets the eligibility criteria for deaf or hard of hearing and visual impairment

(B) meets the eligibility criteria for a student with a visual impairment and has a suspected hearing loss that cannot be demonstrated conclusively, but a speech/language therapist, a certified speech and language therapist, or a licensed speech language pathologist indicates there is no speech at an age when speech would normally be expected;

Slide 15: Let's Talk Deafblind Eligibility (C & D)

(C) has documented hearing and visual losses that, if considered individually, may not meet the requirements for deaf or hard of hearing or visual impairment, but the combination of such losses adversely affects the child's educational performance;

(D) has a documented medical diagnosis of a progressive medical condition that will result in concomitant hearing and visual losses that, without special education intervention, will adversely affect the student's educational performance.”

Slide 16: Consent!

- Consent to release information to APH is required
 - Consent form
 - Email
 - Verbal consent

You will enter student information in our system even if consent has not been provided.
No consent? No funds.

Slide 17: Timelines

- September: TSBVI updates statewide contact info
- December: LEAs receive communication about the upcoming count
- January: Counts open and LEAs report
- January 31: Counts close
- February: Superintendents sign the count
- March – April: Data analysis and sharing

Slide 17: Final Thoughts and Questions

- Don't wait!
- Importance of Accurate Information
- Education Service Center Support

Contact Us

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Thank you for joining us!