

Instructions

Maryland Child Count / Census of Students With Deaf-Blindness, 2016-2017
Please read all enclosed information before beginning your census reply. Thank you.

1. **All** students meeting the federal or functional definitions should be reported on the census.

Federal Definition: The term "deaf-blind" means *a child who has both auditory and visual impairments, the combination of which causes such severe communication and other developmental and educational problems that he/she cannot be accommodated in special education programs solely for students with hearing impairments, visual impairments, or severe disabilities without supplemental assistance designed for these dual sensory impairments.*

Functional Definition: Students who have hearing and vision challenges at the same time and *their visual-auditory acuity cannot be determined* using conventional measures; they require *adaptations in both auditory and visual modes* of instruction; or they *do not respond to auditory or visual stimuli* in their environment. If, in your professional opinion, a student appears to be functioning as if he/she has both a vision and hearing challenges, please include him/her in the census.

2. Report all students with deaf-blindness known to you as of December 1, 2016. All students who meet the above definitions should be listed regardless of how they are listed in your annual Child Count. **Refer to the cover letter for more specific criteria for inclusion of students on the Child Count.**
3. Complete a separate "**National Child Count / Census Reporting Form**" for each student you are adding.
4. Make any edits or changes regarding students previously reported **directly on the form** listing the information you completed last year.
5. Return **all** forms - those for new students and those of students previously reported.
6. If you do not have any students who qualify under the above definitions, with consideration of the additional criteria, please complete the "**2016-17 Registration of Students with Deaf-Blindness, Report Form: No Students with Deaf-Blindness**" (Attachment 3).
7. If you have questions about the census, please call Donna Riccobono, 240-367-0270, Project Director, *Connections Beyond Sight and Sound*, University of Maryland, or email to donnaric@umd.edu.
8. Return completed forms to: Donna Riccobono, Project Director
Connections Beyond Sight and Sound
3214 Benjamin Building
University of Maryland
College Park, Maryland 20742
Fax: 301-405-9995

Please return by: February 22, 2017

Thank you!