



San Diego Unified School District Fact Sheet

Program for Students Who Are Deaf-Blind

San Diego City Schools **Program for Students who are Deaf-Blind (D-B)** serves students from birth to age 22, who have bilateral hearing losses ranging from mild to profound as well as visual impairments ranging from partially sighted to totally blind. The focus of the Deaf-Blind Program is to lessen the effects of the dual sensory impairment for accessing educational opportunities. A variety of placement options provide opportunities to meet students' needs in the least restrictive environment that assures equal opportunity for communication access.

The D/HH program curriculum is based on preschool - high school district/state standards, alternate curriculum, and supplemental curriculum, as appropriate, as indicated in the student's Individualized Education Program, (IEP) which leads to a diploma, letter of recognition or certificate of completion.

Referrals: Initial contact is made to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (D/HH) Program by a parent, medical professional/agency, California Department of Education, Diagnostic Resource Teacher (DRT), or school staff. An audiological evaluation and report, and/or existing Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) or IEP verifies the hearing loss. The Program Diagnostic Resource Teacher refers the student's case to the appropriate staff members for evaluation. Eligibility of services is determined at an IFSP or IEP meeting.

Eligibility: Deaf-Blind students are eligible for special education services through the D/HH Program if there is a diagnosed bilateral hearing loss of 30 decibels (dB) or greater in the better ear, which causes communication, developmental, cognitive, social/emotional, physical, and/or educational problems. In addition, a student must have a visual impairment which, even with correction, adversely affects a student's educational performance.

Program/Services: The placement options are:

- **Infant Home-Based Program** -- Birth to 18-month infants/toddlers and their parents receive specialized intervention by appropriately credentialed interdisciplinary team members and appropriate agencies experienced in working with infants and toddlers who have hearing losses in addition to other disabilities. Parents are also provided instruction, support and strategies to use with their child for developing communication and visual skills.
- **Special Day Class** – Students, 18-months to 22 years, receive individualized instruction by an appropriately credentialed teacher of the deaf or deaf-blind in the areas of academics, communication/visual skills, daily living skills, and work/career options.

SUMMARY	
❖	CS D/HH Program Office is located in the Clairemont area behind Marston Middle School.
❖	Approximately 50 students and families are served.
❖	The Deaf-Blind/D/HH Special Needs Special Day classes are located at Lindbergh/Schweitzer Elementary, Kroc Middle and Madison High School. Itinerant services are provided Deaf-Blind students in regular D/HH classes, and general education.
❖	Staff includes D/HH Teachers, Audiologists Counselors, Nurses, Orientation and Mobility Specialists, Psychologist, Social Worker, Speech Pathologists, Speech Teachers, Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor, Teachers for the Visually Impaired, Interpreters, Paraeducators and Braille transcribers.
❖	Services are also coordinated with San Diego Regional Center and California Children's Services.

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- **D/HH Special Needs Special Day Class** – Students, aged 18-months to 22 years, receive instruction in a Deaf and Hard of Hearing Special Needs Class with support from teachers credentialed in deaf-blind, deaf or visually impaired. Deaf-blind students receive instruction in the academic/alternate/supplemental curriculum, daily living skills, community-based instruction and communication skills for the majority of the day as indicated in the student's IEP.
- **Itinerant Program** -- Students who are enrolled in other special education placements receive educational support from D/HH, Visually Impaired (VI) and/or D-B credentialed itinerant teachers and staff.
- **State Special School** -- California School for the Blind in Fremont, CA (CSDF) provides comprehensive assessment services and if eligible and appropriate, residential school programs for students who are deaf-blind.
- **Transition:** As students articulate from the D/HH Infant Home-Based Program to Special Day Class, Elementary to Middle School, and Middle School to High School, transition support is provided to the family and/ or the student. At the secondary level, students work with the D/HH Vocational Counselor or Transition Resources for Adult Community Education (TRACE) Program staff on vocational training.

Contact Information: Deaf and Hard of Hearing: (858) 490-8451

www.sandi.net
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