

Quarterly Newsletter

September 2026



**Alaska
Deafblind
Project**

The Alaska Deafblind Project

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THE ALASKA DEAFBLIND PROJECT — FAMILY and EDUCATOR RESOURCE

- Support for Students with Dual Sensory Loss
- A guide for parents, educators, and school administrators across Alaska

Did you know there is a federally funded program dedicated to supporting Alaskan children with combined hearing and vision loss, and their families and schools? The Alaska Deafblind Project offers specialized expertise and hands-on assistance, free of charge, to families and teams working with deafblind students.

Funded by the federal government. Here for Alaska. The Alaska Deafblind Project is part of the Special Education Service Agency (SESA) and is funded directly through the U.S. Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP). Every state has a project like this — and ours exists to make sure that children and young adults across Alaska with deafblindness get the specialized support they need, wherever they live.

Who is Eligible to Receive Our Services?

The Project serves individuals from premature birth through age 22 who have both a hearing loss and a vision loss. We work with families and schools in urban centers, rural communities, and remote areas throughout Alaska — including individuals who are not enrolled in school.

Federal definition of deafblindness (IDEA)

Deafblindness means 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.

A student does not need to be fully deaf or fully blind to qualify. Many students we serve have partial hearing and/or partial vision — it is the combination of both losses that creates unique challenges that requires specialized support.

How We Can Help

Our services are available to families and school teams. Our specialists work alongside parents, teachers, and community members to provide practical, hands-on support tailored to each student's needs.

- Functional vision assessments
- Training in American Sign Language, Tactile Sign Language, braille, and picture/object cues
- Pre-symbolic communication strategies
- IEP and IFSP development and implementation support
- Transition planning: into school, into ILP programs, and into adulthood
- Educator and family training in specialized strategies / Webinars
- Adapted materials and specialized instructional equipment support
- Interagency liaison services
- Topical in-services and workshops for schools and communities
- Culturally appropriate interventions

Please contact the Alaska Deafblind Project if you know a student in your family, community, or school who may benefit from these services. You can reach out to the Alaska Deafblind Project at deafblind@sesa.org