



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING



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PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

January 30, 2009

MEMORANDUM

TO: Intermediate School District Directors of Special Education

FROM: Jacquelyn J. Thompson, Ph.D., Director
Office of Special Education and Early Intervention Services

SUBJECT: Annual Federal Register of Students

DISSEMINATE TO ALL LEAs AND PSAs

This memo is to alert you to the annual census conducted by DeafBlind Central: Michigan's Training and Resource Project. This organization is a federally funded grant project that provides a range of consultative and referral services for children birth through twenty-six, who have a combined vision and hearing loss.

DeafBlind Central is currently conducting the Annual Federal Register of Students Who Are DeafBlind for the State of Michigan. The information they collect is kept strictly confidential and identifying information is removed before the data are reported to the United States Department of Education. Reporting student information does not violate student FERPA rights.

Please encourage staff within your district to determine if any of the children or young adults they serve meet the criteria for being qualified as DeafBlind. This includes those individuals who have documented vision and hearing impairments, those who cannot be tested using conventional testing (but do not seem to be processing vision and auditory stimuli), those with additional disabilities, and children with cochlear implants. It is not necessary for the child/young adult to have DeafBlind categorical eligibility to qualify; the intent is to identify ALL children who meet these criteria.

If you or members of your staff have questions regarding the criteria for qualification, or would like a Federal Registry Form, contact DB Central directly by calling toll free, 1-888-758-0508 (V/TTY) or go their website at: www.dbcentral.org

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