



## Intervener Resources

A trained 1:1 intervener is an essential piece of a successful program for many students with deafblindness. Students who are deafblind miss an enormous portion of the information and interaction that are occurring around them. This can lead to isolation; lack of communicative skill development; lack of access to meaningful curriculum and general concept and skill development; limited or inconsistent active participation in class activities and routines; and limited interactions and relationships with others. A trusted relationship with 1:1 paraeducator who has specialized training and experience working with children and youth who are deafblind can provide an important bridge that will provide access to the school classroom and other environments, curriculum, and other teachers and peers. The intervener provides a bridge that allows the student to participate interact more within the environment and with the other people in the environment. This person develops a close, trusting relationship with the student and is able to effectively “interpret” and respond to all of their communicative attempts, reliably provide additional information and support at a pace that the student can process and respond to, and facilitate their participation in class activities and routines and interactions with others.

An intervener performs their role with direction and support from qualified teachers and related service providers, yet also needs to be able to creatively “think outside the box” and initiate providing information, support, and instruction whenever necessary. It’s essential that the classroom teacher and related service providers continue to teach, model, & coach the intervener in important instructional strategies and supports related to their specific areas of expertise.

Below are some **helpful resources** to learn more about the role of the intervener and determining the need for intervener services:

**Intervener Definition from the National Center on Deaf Blindness:**

[https://documents.nationaldb.org/NCDB\\_Intervener\\_Services\\_Definition\\_2019\\_a.pdf](https://documents.nationaldb.org/NCDB_Intervener_Services_Definition_2019_a.pdf)

**Fact Sheet:** *Comparison of possible supports for a student who is deafblind :*

[https://www.cmich.edu/colleges/class/Centers/DBCentral/Documents/Comparison\\_of\\_Supports\\_6.22.16.pdf](https://www.cmich.edu/colleges/class/Centers/DBCentral/Documents/Comparison_of_Supports_6.22.16.pdf)

**IEP Team Discussion Guide (National Center on Deaf Blindness):** *Are Intervener Services Appropriate for Your Child with Deafblindness?*

[https://www.nationaldb.org/media/doc/Intervener\\_Services\\_IEP\\_Team\\_Discussion\\_Guide.pdf](https://www.nationaldb.org/media/doc/Intervener_Services_IEP_Team_Discussion_Guide.pdf)

**Alice Cogswell and Anne Sullivan-Macy Act:** Information and updates on current legislative bills in the US House of Representative and US Senate related to students who are Deaf, visually

impaired, or deafblind. <https://cogswellmacyact.org/>

**Cogswell-Macy Act Informational Flier:**

<https://cogswellmacyactorg.files.wordpress.com/2021/05/2021-flyer-cogswell-macy-329816.pdf>

**National Center on Deaf-Blindness Intervener Resources:**

- **For professionals:** <https://www.nationaldb.org/national-initiatives/iqp/>
- **For families:** <https://www.nationaldb.org/for-families/learning-resources/family-topics/what-is-an-intervener/>

**Open Hands, Open Access (OHOA):** Free, online, asynchronous training modules on deafblindness for training interveners: <https://moodle.nationaldb.org>

**Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) Knowledge and Skills Competencies for Intervenors:**

[https://exceptionalchildren.org/sites/default/files/2020-07/Specialty\\_Set\\_Special\\_Education\\_Paraeducator\\_Intervener\\_for\\_Individuals\\_With\\_Deafblindness\\_PDBI.pdf](https://exceptionalchildren.org/sites/default/files/2020-07/Specialty_Set_Special_Education_Paraeducator_Intervener_for_Individuals_With_Deafblindness_PDBI.pdf)

**Online Training Courses:**

**San Francisco State University and California Deafblind Services Intervener Training Program:** <http://www.cadbs.org/sfsu-cdbs-intervener-training-program/>

**Central Michigan University Deafblind Intervener Program:**

<https://lf.globalapp.cmich.edu/degreeConc/UCERT/DBI>

**Utah State University Deafblind Intervener Program:**

<https://www.usu.edu/online/degrees/certificate/deafblind-intervener-training-certificate/>

**National Intervener Certification E-Portfolio (NICE):**

<https://www.nationaldb.org/national-initiatives/iqp/national-intervener-certification-eportfolio/>