

OCDBE

THE OHIO CENTER FOR

DEAFBLIND EDUCATION

*Professional Learning
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The Ohio Center for Deafblind Education • 3246 Henderson Rd. • Columbus, OH 43220 • 614-897-0020 • www.ohiodeafblind.org

The Basic Human Need for Closure And Its Impact on Children and Youth who are Deafblind

Presented by

Maurice Belote

Project Coordinator, California Deafblind Project

Humans have a basic need for closure. Closure is the reason why we do not like stories with ambiguous endings, musical pieces that do not achieve resolution with final and pleasing consonance, or tasks that repeat over and over without variation. For general education students without disabilities, closure is achieved in ways that most take for granted such as the return of graded assignments, projects that are completed, transitioning from grade to grade at the end of a school year, and graduations upon completion of middle school and high school. For students who do not experience many of these same markers and milestones, the lack of closure can result in unnecessary high levels of stress, and for students who are deafblind, lack of closure may be one of the contributors to stress and anxiety.

Guest Speaker

Maurice Belote is a graduate of the federally-funded teacher training program in deafblindness at San Francisco State University and has worked exclusively in the field of deafblindness for over 40 years. Prior to joining the state deafblind project, he served for two years as a one-on-one teacher for a deafblind adolescent and another nine years as a teacher of deafblind young adults at the California School for the Blind. Serving as Project Coordinator of California Deafblind Services for 30 years, he provided technical assistance and training throughout California.

Maurice is a frequent presenter at state, national, and international conferences and has written extensively on educational issues specific to children and youth who are deafblind. He represents students with deafblindness on numerous state and national groups and organizations, including as the specialist in deafblindness for the California Transcribers and Educators of the Blind and Visually Impaired. In addition, he serves as Co-Chair of the National Coalition on Deafblindness, which advocates for recognition of interveners and teachers of the deafblind in federal law. Maurice is honored to call many of his former students and their families lifelong friends and is grateful to be part of the national deafblind network. His passions include ensuring that students with deafblindness leave school with effective communication systems and are fully prepared to have the same kinds of wonderful lives that any of us would wish for ourselves. His favorite quote is from renowned implementation scientist Dean Fixsen: "Students cannot benefit from interventions they do not experience."



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Program Description

High levels of stress and anxiety are incompatible with learning and active engagement. Recognizing how being deafblind might act as a barrier to the need for closure is an important step toward addressing the stress and anxiety for children with deafblindness. In addition, strategies can easily be adopted to help mitigate the negative effects of this ambiguity and uncertainty and elements of closure that can be implemented to support this basic human need. The **first session** will provide participants with an opportunity to understand closure and closure strategies to use when interacting with students who are deafblind. The **second session** provides participants with an opportunity to increase skills related to closure through a discussion of strategies and sharing of examples of the implementation of closure strategies.

Learning Objectives

Participants will:

1. Understand what is meant by closure.
2. Identify closure strategies to use with students with deafblindness
3. Identify closure strategies to use with an individual student
4. Evaluate the effectiveness of implemented closure strategies

Participants may register for one or more of the sessions by clicking on the session's registration link. **All sessions will be held from 4:00 – 5:00 (ET).**

Session	Date	Registration Link
1	Jan. 18, 2022	https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Closure1Jan18
2	Jan. 25, 2022	https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Closure2Jan25

Target Audience: Parents, educators, related services providers, and agency personnel

Contact hours: 1 contact hour/session upon completion of each session evaluation

Questions: Contact Kathy Richards via e-mail at kathryn.richards@uc.edu

Cost: No cost

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