



November 13, 2023

Dear Colleague:

In January 2023, the U.S. Congress appropriated \$1 million for state deafblind projects and the National Center on Deafblindness to "strengthen support of the abilities and needs of children with deafblindness, including through intervener services."

Although the term intervener is not widely used in our state, I think you will find the attached fact sheet, and the links to additional information it provides, useful. The information describes ways to provide access to communication and information to students who are deafblind that can be used by personnel in addition to interveners, such as specially trained communication partners. Such access is essential in order for students to participate in the general education curriculum and receive a free and appropriate public education, as required by IDEA.

Please share the attached fact sheet with your IEP teams—including family members—serving children who are deafblind. Although it specifically describes the role of interveners, the details about how to provide access for children who are deafblind are important for all personnel to understand.

Don't hesitate to contact me if you have questions or would like additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jodi Dowell".

Jodi Dowell, TVI  
Research Associate, OCDBE  
University of Cincinnati Systems Development & Improvement Center