



Kansas Deafblind Project

- Provide free technical assistance to families and providers serving students with combined hearing and vision loss, birth to 21 years old in Kansas
- Allows access to the Kansas DeafBlind Fund
- An extension of the Kansas State School for the Blind Field Services
- Conducts a yearly federally mandated Child Count (census)



Application Process

1. Submit an application for Deafblind certification (application link below)
 - a.) A certification acceptance or denial letter will be mailed to the school contact
2. Complete an annual Child Count in the spring which is emailed to the school contact each year.
3. Connect with the Deafblind Project to learn about the services available to your school team and student(s).



Links and Contacts

- [-KS Deafblind Project Certification Application](#)
- [-Deafblind Certification Criteria](#)
- [-KS Deafblind Project Facebook Page](#)
- [KS Deafblind Project Website](#)

Contact:

Katie Kirchhoff (Project Director),
kkirchhoff@kssdb.org

Phone: (913)-375-5239

Address: 1100 State Ave. Kansas City, KS 66102

Kansas Deafblind Fund

- Administered by the Kansas Department of Education
- Intended for LEA's to assist with costs for specialized equipment, consultations, and evaluations
- Students (ages birth through 21 years) who are currently **certified deafblind by the Kansas Deafblind Project** qualify for funding.
- Applications will be approved up to \$4,500.00 maximum per student



Application Process

****Students must be certified through the DB Project in order to qualify for the deafblind fund.**

1. LEA Administrators or Designees register or log in to the KSDE Common Authentication Page
2. Choose Kansas Grants Management System (KGMS) to access the Kansas Deaf-Blind Fund Application
3. Select the School Year (2024-2025) --> Click on Grant Type (Deafblind) --> Click on DeafBlind to open the application

**2024 Application Window:
April 1 - July 31**



Links and Contacts

- [-KSDE Common Authentication Page](#)
- [-Overview of the Kansas Deafblind Fund Application](#)
- [-KS Deafblind Fund Frequently Asked Questions and Answers](#)
- [-Recording of DB Fund Training](#)

Contacts:

-DBfund@ksde.org

-Lisa Karney, lkarney@ksde.org

Deafblind Frequently Asked Questions & Answers

What documents need to be completed for the KS Deafblind Project?

1. [Initial application for certification](#) along with
 - a. Current vision report by an ophthalmologist, optometrist or a doctor
 - b. Current audiologist report
 - c. Current IEP or IFSP
 - d. any other documentation that may be helpful
2. [Application for recertification](#) 3 years after initial certification or 1 year after a provisional certification (you will be notified when recertification is due)
3. Annual Child Count (Census)- this will be sent to the school contact every spring.

What is the difference between the Child Count (Census) and DB Certification?

Child Count (Formally called Census)

- U.S. Department of Education mandates all state DB Projects to conduct an annual child count
- The child count is a "snapshot" of individuals on the Kansas DB registry
- A list of students who completed the count is submitted to KSDE on June 30th for consideration to the Kansas DeafBlind Fund.

DB Registry/Certification

- DB certification allows a Kansas student to be on the KSDB registry or database. It makes the student eligible for [services](#) at no cost.
- Certified students will be requested to complete the annual child count.
- The certification application is renewed every three years

What services are available to school teams after a child is certified through the KS DB Project?

- [DB Core Teams](#): Serves as a liaison between the district/program and the KSDBP. Provides guidance and support in serving students with combined hearing and vision loss in your district/agency.
- [Technical Assistance](#): Examples of free TA that the Project offers to school teams:
 - Reviewing videos of the learner engaging with a team member to illustrate areas of concern
 - Providing online coaching to suggest strategies to address any concerns
 - Conducting video conferences to discuss progress on targeted student outcomes and to receive continued coaching
- [Scholarships](#) for service providers to attend DB related training or conferences

What services are available to families after a child is certified through the KS DB Project?

- [Discover CVI](#): Parent support group intended for parents of children with Cortical/Cerebral Visual Impairment
- [Music and Me](#): Monthly virtual music therapy sessions for children with a visual impairment or combined vision and hearing loss and their parent/caregiver
- [Family Scholarships](#) for families to attend any DB related trainings, webinars, or family events
- Annual Family Day**: A day for families to come together to meet and have fun with other families with children with deafblindness while also gaining information of a DB topic.
- Emails & Monthly Newsletters**: Receive information on upcoming events, helpful resources, and other DB related information.

Can my student still be certified if we do not have a vision or hearing report?

- If you do not have a current vision and or hearing report to submit with the DB application, then the child can still be considered for a **provisional certification**. A Provisional certification will need to be renewed after one year instead of three years. This gives the educational team and family additional time to complete any needed testing and submit the missing reports.
 - A provisional certification still makes the child eligible for DB funding and all other services available.

If you have any questions, please contact Katie Kirchhoff at kkirchhoff@kssdb.org or (913)-375-5239

Thank You!