

# VERMONT SENSORY ACCESS PROJECT

*...supporting children and youth with combined vision and hearing loss and their families since 1987.*

Because there is great variability within this low incidence disability, the combination of vision and hearing impairments is referred to by some as "dual sensory impairments" while others are more comfortable with "deafblindness." We aim to create an inclusive environment, beginning with language. By focusing on "**sensory access**" as the central target of our project, it is our hope to serve all children who need specialized supports for learning related to combined vision and hearing loss.

**Dual Sensory Impairment** (deafblindness) can be characterized as low vision to complete blindness along with a mild hearing loss to profound deafness. The combination of the two sensory losses makes it challenging to implement typical educational strategies and approaches. The Vermont Sensory Access Project is federally funded by the U.S. Department of Education (October 2013-September 2018) and designed to augment the services of the Vermont I-Team and other Vermont vision and hearing service providing agencies. Along with the I-Team, the Vermont Sensory Access Project's mission is to provide high quality technical assistance and training to increase the capacity of our state and local educational and early intervention teams and their families to improve academic and social outcomes for Vermont learners who are deafblind and to prepare them for successful post-school education, work, and/or community life.

## Our Services



- Assistance with **identification** of children and youth who qualify as deafblind
- **Technical assistance and training** for local teams and families:
  - **Effective Instruction**
  - **Intervener training support**
  - **Transition planning support**
- **Interagency collaboration** and coordination

## Contact Us!

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