



STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES**

**Bureau for Public Health**

Office of Maternal, Child and Family Health

Catherine C. Slemp, MD, MPH  
Commissioner & State Health Officer

Bill J. Crouch  
Cabinet Secretary

February 14, 2019

Dear Early Intervention Practitioner,

Each year, as part of the reporting requirements of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), the West Virginia SenseAbilities Project, counts the number of children from birth to age 21 receiving special education services who meet the definition for deafblind. For infants and toddlers receiving Part C early intervention services, deafblindness is defined as:

*“Concomitant hearing and vision impairments or delays, the combination of which causes such severe communication and other developmental and intervention needs that specialized early intervention services are needed.”*

This count constitutes the deafblind census which is used to support the funding of West Virginia's Deafblind grant, West Virginia SenseAbilities. West Virginia's Deafblind Project, funded through the United States Department of Education, provides in-service training, technical assistance, workshops, and resource materials to districts and agencies serving these children.

If you know of a child who is receiving WV Birth to Three services who meets this definition and could benefit from the services provided through SenseAbilities, please obtain the family's written permission to complete the census for their child. Background information and the census form is attached. If you have questions in regards to completing the form, please contact Ruth Ann King at (304) 558-2696.

Sincerely,  
Mel Woodcock