

# Idaho Educational Services for the Deaf and the Blind Overview

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Idaho Educational Services for the Deaf and the Blind (IESDB) was established under Section 33-3401 of Idaho Code and is responsible for services to children, ages birth to twenty-one, who are deaf or hard of hearing and/or blind or visually impaired. The IESDB is the state authorized provider of supplemental educational services, early intervention, consultation, and transition support for children who are hearing and/or visually impaired. Included in these services, the IESDB provides education and support to families, local school districts, and other state agencies.

## IESDB Services

Idaho Educational Services for the Deaf and the Blind ([www.iesdb.org](http://www.iesdb.org)) provides a variety of quality education and resources for children and adults through the continuum of services and placement options. These services are provided by Education Specialists (trained in either deaf/hard of hearing or blind/visually impaired specialties) through seven regional educational centers; and by direct instruction through a residential and day campus based school, the Idaho School for the Deaf and the Blind (ISDB), located in Gooding, Idaho.

## Idaho School for the Deaf and the Blind (ISDB)

The Idaho School for the Deaf and Blind provides a residential and day campus based program for students ages three to twenty-one with hearing or vision loss. A student's condition could possibly include other disabling conditions along with the vision or hearing impairment. Direct educational services include:

- A comprehensive preschool and elementary education program, including related services, which are designed for the particular needs of children with sensory-impairments.
- A comprehensive secondary education program which provides academic, vocational, and extra-curricular programs designed to meet the particular needs of students with sensory-impairments.
- A student living program which provides for the social and emotional needs of students with sensory-impairments residing at the school.

The services and education goals are established, generally, through the Individualized Education Program (IEP) process as outlined in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). In addition to traditional education services, ISDB provides expanded core curricular activities and is a distribution center for the accessible instructional materials library, Braille transcription and interpretation services, American Printing House for the Blind (APH) materials, and newsletters. The ISDB also offers screening clinics, counseling, and audiology services.

## IESDB Educational Centers

The IESDB operates seven regional educational centers around the state, which provide outreach programs through direct and consultation services to students, school districts, and parents. In addition, the outreach program provides early intervention services to infants and toddlers and their families in partnership with the Idaho Infant Toddler Program.

The IESDB Education Specialists collaborate with the Infant Toddler Program in all regions of the state to provide early intervention and family education. Education Specialists work with families during in-home

visits using specialized curriculum and assessments to promote early intervention, family education, language development, communication options, and information regarding hearing or vision loss.

Other outreach programs include orientation and mobility services, Braille transcription and instruction, deaf mentor programs, and specialized early childhood preschool programs for deaf or hard of hearing and/or blind or visually impaired. Additionally, in conjunction with the State Department of Education, IESDB is a resource for schools, the community and families interested in educational interpreting.

## **Infant Toddler Program (ITP) Collaboration with IESDB**

Infants and toddlers with vision or hearing impairments who are referred to IESDB are primarily served through the IESDB Educational Centers.

When the Infant Toddler Program receives a referral of a child that has an established vision or hearing diagnosis, the service coordinator should ensure:

- A referral is made to IESDB.
- The designated educational specialist from IESDB for the child is identified.
- The IESDB Education Specialist should be invited to the in-take meeting.
- The IESDB educational specialist is invited to the initial Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) meeting.
- The child's initial IFSP includes the IESDB educational specialist, service, outcomes, and strategies.
- The IESDB educational specialist is invited to the six-month review.
- The IESDB educational specialist is invited to the annual review.
- The IESDB educational specialist is involved in the child's transition process.

When the Infant Toddler Program receives a referral, and a vision or hearing diagnosis is made after the initial IFSP is completed, the service coordinator should ensure:

- A referral is made to IESDB.
- An addendum page is completed and includes the IESDB educational specialist, service, outcomes, and strategies.
- The IESDB educational specialist is invited to the six-month review.
- The IESDB educational specialist is invited to the annual review.
- The IESDB educational specialist is involved in the child's transition process.