

Deaf-Blind: Programs and Services for Kansas Students

Students who are identified as Deaf-Blind in Kansas are eligible for different services through a variety of groups and programs. Here is a brief look at some of the services available.

Kansas State School for the Blind

The Kansas State School for the Blind's vision is "The right help, at the right time, in the right location". KSSB is the home of the Kansas Deaf-Blind Project, a key component of our Field Services Department that provides statewide outreach to students in Kansas aged 0-21 who are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Deaf-Blind. Website: www.kssb.net.
Phone: 913-305-3015 (voice)



Kansas School for the Deaf

Every student who is Deaf or Hard of Hearing in Kansas will achieve personal success and become a responsible citizen—this is KSD's vision. Individuals throughout the state of Kansas, aged birth to 21, who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing deserve quality outreach services, resources, and support. For information, go to www.ksdeaf.org.
Phone: 913-210-8111 (voice)



Kansas Deaf-Blind Project

Provides:

- Free consultation and distance mentorship
- Professional development training
- Person-centered planning
- Transition support and resources
- Limited scholarships for workshops/conferences
- Scholarships for certified paraprofessionals (interveners)
- Family engagement and parent networking opportunities

Serves families and educators with a student, birth to 21 years of age and on the Kansas Deaf-Blind Project registry and census.

To register a student, obtain the application from our website, www.kansasdeafblind.org.

For more information, email: ksdeafblind@kssdb.org or call 913-645-5645 (voice).



KSDE/Kansas Deaf-Blind Fund

Kansas is the only state that has a special fund appropriated by the legislature to support students (birth through 21) who are deaf-blind in their educational programs. This fund is administered by the Kansas State Department of Education and provides up to \$3,000 per student until the fund is depleted. The funds are used to offset costs associated with educating students who are deaf-blind and who have current certification on the Kansas Deaf-Blind Census. Funds can be used in the following areas:

- Assistive technology (including adaptive equipment)
- Consultation
- Evaluation as described in the Deaf-Blind Fund application

For information on the Kansas Deaf-Blind Fund click on the following link:

<https://www.ksde.org/Agency/Division-of-Learning-Services/Special-Education-and-Title-Services/Special-Education/Sensory-Losses> or call 785-296-2515 (voice).



Helen Keller National Center, Great Plains Regional Office

- Advocates for individuals with combined vision and hearing loss
- Serves students age 14—senior citizens
- Serves as a life-long point of contact to services and resources
- Connects individuals, families, and agencies to resources
- Identifies individuals for the National Registry of Persons Who are Deaf-Blind (<https://www.helenkeller.org/hknc/national-registry>)
- Offers access to an array of training programs for youth and adults at our training center on Long Island, New York (<https://www.helenkeller.org/hknc/youth-programs>)
- Provides consultation, technical assistance, and learning opportunities (professional/consumer) to support successful outcomes for consumers to work and thrive in the community of their choice
- For more information, call 913-677-4562 (voice) / 913-227-4282 (videophone)



iCanConnect in Kansas

iCanConnect

- Free technology and training for people of all ages with combined vision and hearing loss
- Applicants must be able to perform a “distance communication” function including sending texts, making phone calls, receiving email messages, using social media, and making video calls
- Technology assessments can determine what equipment is provided including smart phones, computers, tablets, keyboards/skins, screenreader and magnification software, braille displays and notetakers, alerting devices, neckloops and amplifiers
- Eligibility includes verification of vision and hearing loss and household income
- The program is administered through Assistive Technology for Kansans: phone 620-421-8367 (voice)
- Application and contact information are available at <http://www.icanconnect.org/how-to-apply/kansas>

Kansas Instructional Resource Center

The purpose of the Kansas Instructional Resource Center (KIRC) is to work with local, state, and federal entities to identify and acquire educational resources needed for the success of all Kansas learners with vision impairments, including deaf-blindness, birth to 21 years of age.



KIRC maintains an up-to-date collection of braille and large print textbooks, specialized equipment, and professional resources in support of parents, Teachers of Students with Visual Impairments (TSVIs), and education facilities working with qualified students in obtaining educational goals. Through annual APH Quota funds, and a repository textbook and equipment library, available items are loaned at no cost to those working with eligible learners. Materials are loaned on a “school year” basis but may be renewed as needed. When items are no longer needed, those materials and locally purchased textbooks are returned to KIRC and made available to others. Material requests may be submitted by phone to 913-305-3071 or online at <http://webopac.klas.com/ksirc>.

APH Registration and Quota Funds

Each January, in cooperation with The American Printing House (APH), under the Act to Promote the Education of the blind, notification regarding the registration of eligible students is sent to directors of infant toddler services and superintendents of public and private pre-kindergarten through 12 programs throughout Kansas. The number of registered students is used to determine the Annual QPH Quota allocation for each state. Annual Quota funds may then be applied toward the acquisition of qualified APH products (<https://www.aph.org/federal-quota/>)