



As of the 2021 Pennsylvania Deaf-Blind Child Count, 532 children are eligible to receive services from the Pennsylvania Deaf-Blind Project.

The Pennsylvania Deaf-Blind Advisory Committee (PaDBAC) advises the Bureau of Special Education (BSE) on current issues and preferred practices related to the unique educational needs of students who are deaf-blind including those with multiple disabilities and those at risk for deaf-blindness.

## Pennsylvania Deaf-Blind Advisory Committee (PaDBAC)

### Vision

All students who are deaf-blind will have equitable access to all learning environments including instruction, resources, and specialized services.

### Mission

The mission of the Pennsylvania Deaf-Blind Advisory Committee (PaDBAC) is to make recommendations to the Bureau of Special Education so that it may identify needs, maximize opportunities, and enhance programs and services, delivered in the least restrictive environment, for all Pennsylvania students who are at risk of becoming deaf-blind, including those with additional disabilities.

### Membership

PaDBAC Members are appointed by the director of the Bureau of Special Education. Membership includes representatives from the following stakeholder groups:

- Parents
- Educational interpreters and paraprofessionals
- Local Educational Agencies (LEAs)
- Intermediate Units (IUs)
- Schools and programs for students who are deaf, hard of hearing, or deafblind
- Teacher preparation programs
- Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL)
- Pennsylvania Office for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (ODHH)
- Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR)

## Role

- Bring current issues pertaining to the education of children who are deaf-blind to the attention of the Bureau of Special Education.
- Responds to requests from the Bureau of Special Education for information and advice concerning the education of children who are deaf-blind.
- Advocate for, and monitor standards of, quality for educational personnel working with students who are deaf-blind (teachers, paraprofessionals, interpreters, and interveners).
- Work collaboratively with stakeholders, agencies, and other organizations to promote and implement preferred best practices in the provision of quality services for students who are deaf-blind.

## Expectations

- The Committee will meet on a quarterly basis, with a 2-day retreat to be held annually
- Discuss, review, and present best practices regarding deaf-blind education
- Create subgroups to assess and identify areas of needs and strengths
- Promote family engagement

# Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Josh Shapiro, Governor

