

Date: January 6, 2014
To: Special Education Stakeholders
From: Stephanie Petska, PhD
Subject: Deaf-Blind Technical Assistance Project – Free Resources

The Wisconsin Deaf-Blind Technical Assistance Project (WDBTAP) is a federally funded project through the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs. The WDBTAP has been established to provide technical assistance on behalf of children aged birth through 21 who are deaf-blind. WDBTAP provides services to children, families, schools, and communities at no cost. To access services, a child does not need to meet Wisconsin's state special education eligibility criteria for hearing impairment and/or vision impairment. Children do not need a documented vision or hearing loss from a medical provider.

Staff from the WDBTAP will work with schools and families and assess whether a student has functional vision and functional hearing loss of any degree that impacts communication as well as a child's access to educational information and materials.

To help districts and families decide whether to contact WDBTAP for assessment and services, the Special Education Team developed a worksheet, *Checklist to Consider WDBTAP Supports and Services*. The worksheet may be used by IEP teams, local education agency staff, families, medical providers, or others. The worksheet and more information are online at http://sped.dpi.wi.gov/sped_deafblind.

For more information, please visit www.wdbtap.wi.gov or contact Jolene Gruber, WDBTAP Project Coordinator, at jolene.gruber@wesp-dhh.wi.gov or (608)356-0091.