**New for 2013-2018**

**WV e-folio**
- In partnership with WVDE, Office of Communication, WV SenseAbilities project staff will work with WVDE’s webmaster to design an interactive password-protected site for each child that receives targeted or intensive technical assistance. Co-owned by the project staff and the family, targeted information, webinars and video clips specific to the child will be housed and archived through the years. The “home page” for each child will include specific information about vision, hearing and communication including necessary accommodations and intervention strategies.

**Distance Mentorship Project**
- This will be a distance method of training teams specific to a focus student’s needs. Using the child’s information from the WV e-folio as well as a team blog for ongoing communication, alerts for relevant information that is posted, video clips of the child uploaded for team discussions, teams will learn how to best teach a child with dual sensory loss.


**Definition of Deafblindness**

Children with hearing and visual impairments occurring together, the combination of which causes such severe communication and other developmental and educational problems that they cannot be appropriately educated in special education programs solely for children with deafness or blindness, are considered deafblind.

Infants and toddlers who:
- **from birth through age 2** are experiencing developmental delays in hearing and vision,
- have a diagnosed physical or mental condition that has a high probability of resulting in developmental delays in hearing and vision, or
- are at risk of having substantial developmental delays in hearing and vision if early intervention services are not provided.

**New for 2013-2018**

**Intervener Training**
- An intervenor is a person who works consistently one-to-one with an individual who has combined vision and hearing loss and has specialized training and skills in deafblindness.
- An intervenor provides a bridge to the world for the student with sensory loss. The intervener helps the student gather information, learn concepts and skills, develop communication and language and establish relationships that lead to greater independence. The project will offer specialized training and coaching for a limited number of interveners per year.

**Interdisciplinary Transition Team Initiative**
- Transition planning for young adults is a vital process for the student, family members, school and agency personnel, and it should begin as early as possible. It is doubly important for students with combined hearing and vision loss as many players must come to the table to assist in making decisions for a successful transition from school to adult life. Fifteen state projects have joined together to provide the latest tools and techniques for working with selected teams to create a smooth transition for the focus student.

**Family Engagement Collaborative**
- Coordinate and support a regional family network of information on topics related to the needs of children and students with combined vision and hearing loss. Offer training opportunities in WV that allow for inviting parents across state lines who may also have an interest and provide opportunities for WV families to travel to other northeastern US states to participate and present in their family trainings. Sharing of resources will happen through listserv, newsletter and Facebook groups as well as more local training venues.

**Who can request services?**

Any parent, family member or care provider for a child, birth to 21 years, with deafblindness, or any professional involved in providing services to such a child.

**WV SenseAbilities Project Staff**

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**Services Available**

Identification of children birth to 22 with combined visual and hearing loss in West Virginia.

Technical Assistance and Training for families, early interventionists, service providers, and others based on mutually defined needs.

Targeted Technical Assistance and Training based on individual student needs and requests from teachers, service providers, families and early interventionists provided in the home, at school, or where appropriate for the individual student.

Annual SenseAbilities Institutes and Statewide Training with topics centered on common needs and concerns.

Coordination of Services with other programs such as the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources, the Division of Rehabilitation Services, state operated programs and other agencies and individuals.

Clearinghouse of information and resources for families, service providers and community.