



CONNECTIONS BEYOND SIGHT AND SOUND

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Connections – the Maryland and DC Deafblind Project

Enhancing the lives of children in Maryland and Washington, DC who have dual sensory impairment.

- Connections Beyond Sight and Sound (CBSS) is a project designed to meet the unique needs of children and youth with both vision and hearing impairments.
- CBSS serves any parent, family member, or care provider of a child with dual sensory impairment age birth through 21 who lives in Maryland or DC, or any school personnel involved in providing service to such a child.
- CBSS plans activities and provides technical assistance and training based on student, family and service provider needs.



What is Connections?

CBSS is a partnership project between the Maryland State Department of Education and the University of Maryland at College Park. The project supports children who live in Maryland and Washington, DC, in the environments where they live and go to school by providing resources, training, and technical assistance.



Whom does Connections serve?

CBSS serves children and youth frequently referred to as *deafblind*. This means individuals who have vision and hearing impairments, the combination of which causes such severe communication and other developmental and educational challenges that they cannot be accommodated in special education programs solely for children with deafness or children with blindness.

CBSS serves students who are at high risk for vision and hearing challenges and may need assistance with obtaining medical documentation.

CBSS provides select services and support for students with cortical visual impairment (CVI).

What does Connections provide?

CBSS provides a variety of services including:

- Site-based child focused consultation
- Statewide training
- In-service training
- Family training
- Intervener training
- Annual child count / census
- And much more...



If you suspect a student may have vision challenges (either ocular or cortical vision impairment) and hearing challenges, please visit our website and click on **Referral** to request assistance from the CBSS project.