

Student Services Department
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Ryan Gollner, Project Director
Wisconsin Educational Services Program for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (WESP-DHH)
309 W. Walworth Ave
Delavan, WI 53115

Dear Mr. Gollner,

It is my pleasure to write a letter supporting the Wisconsin DeafBlind Technical Assistance Project (WDBTAP) seeking funding through the State Technical Assistance Projects to Improve Services and Results for Deafblind Children and National Technical Assistance and Dissemination Center for Deafblind Children (CFDA 84.326T).

In our experience with WDBTAP we have seen numerous positive outcomes with our deafblind students. Currently we have five students who are on the WDBTAP census and each student has benefited from being involved with this grant differently. We have utilized WDBTAP for evaluations, individual goal development, in-service opportunities for staff, and creating plans using CPI techniques for deafblind students throughout the district. Additionally, the utilization of WDBTAP recommendations has allowed us to hire interveners and have offered reimbursement for their training. Through the consistency of a trained intervener, our deafblind students have been able to develop a better understanding of the world around them, establish functional routines, and increase their language skills through sign or using a communication device. The WDBTAP staff has been a great resource for our Hudson teams in helping us meet our deafblind student's needs.

WDBTAP has provided several services, activities and connections to organizations for students and families. One resource thoroughly enjoyed is the interactive story time where WDBTAP provides sensory items to coincide. This makes learning a fun and engaging experience by allowing students to interact to the best of their abilities. Additionally, the lending library is a program our students and families benefit from greatly. Through the lending library, they are able to check out sensory toys, books, technology, and interactive equipment before buying it for themselves, which tends to be an overwhelming expense. Another important aspect of WDBTAP is their ability to refer to outside resources. For example, a student was referred to the "I Can Connect" program and was given an iPad to communicate with family across the country. Then, when COVID shut down schools, she was able to use the iPad to attend classes virtually. WDBTAP also connects families who have children with dual sensory disabilities. They have arranged virtual spaces to build communities and provide support. Similarly, they organize family conferences where parents are able to attend educational presentations while leaving their deafblind children at daycare with trained individuals. Activities are also provided for the siblings of deafblind children to ensure that the entire family is entertained and taken care of. As you can see, WDBTAP is an essential resource for deafblind students in the state of Wisconsin.

In conclusion, I fully support the efforts of the WDBTAP as they seek this funding to support their program to help support the children in Wisconsin who are deafblind, their families and their school teams.

Sincerely,



Jordan Wood
Assistant Director of Student Services

