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### **Sampling compliance with LA Bulletin 1508 regulations regarding completion of vision & hearing screenings and evaluations for students referred to the LA DeafBlind Project: A Quality Assurance Evaluation Pilot**

#### Abstract

Proficient vision and hearing are essential to a child's academic performance and social development. Early identification of deleterious variations in vision and hearing allows for timely intervention and for students to receive necessary auxiliary aids and services. Louisiana law, specifically Bulletin 1508, requires that students receive hearing and vision screening prior to being evaluated for special education services. It is the responsibility of the local education agency (LEA) to ensure that vision and hearing screening, and necessary follow-up assessments, are conducted and that the results are reported in the 1508 multidisciplinary evaluation report. The information reported in the evaluation should then be used to guide educational planning in the student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP).

In this project, we analyzed records of students in the Louisiana DeafBlind Registry, who are known to have some atypical levels of both vision and hearing, to determine compliance with Bulletin 1508 regarding the screening & evaluation of vision and hearing for students being considered for special education in Louisiana.

Data from seventy-six 1508 evaluations was collected including information regarding the initial vision and hearing screenings (conducted by the LEA) and follow-up assessments (completed by the LEA or community health care providers). IEPs that corresponded to the 1508 evaluations (N=51) were then reviewed to see if information about the student's vision and hearing profiles was reported and if the indicated auxiliary aids and services recommended were included in the IEP.

Results indicated that 18% of the evaluations did not report a vision screening and 7% did not report a hearing screening. Additionally, 47% and 33% of the evaluations did not indicate that follow-up evaluations were done for vision and hearing, respectively. Analysis of the IEPs that corresponded with the 1508 evaluations found that 27% of the IEPs did not address the student's vision condition and needs and 8% did not address hearing condition and needs. Overall, only 20% of the student records on the DeafBlind Registry had all necessary parts of the vision and hearing screen/evaluation and had both vision and hearing impairments addressed on the student's IEP. These results indicate non-compliance of Bulletin 1508 regulations in vision and hearing screening & evaluation for students that are evaluated for special education.