



## Foundational Intervener Training Series 2026-2027

Sponsored by the Minnesota Regional Low Incidence Projects, the Minnesota DeafBlind Project, and American Sign Language Interpreter Services (ASLIS), an Approved RID CMP Sponsor.

### What Is an Intervener?

An intervener is a trained paraprofessional who works one-on-one with a student who has combined hearing and vision loss (deafblindness) to provide critical connections and access to other people, communication, and the environment. Under the direction of licensed staff, the intervener supports and bridges communication between the student and others, provides access to information and the environment, and supports and facilitates opportunities for learning and development. This training provides instruction that includes hands-on activities, simulations, presentations and group activities focused on understanding deafblindness and providing strategies for interveners to implement with their students.

### What Is the Importance of an Intervener?

Combined hearing and vision loss (deafblindness) creates unique and complex challenges. Often the student with deafblindness has limited or no access to the learning environment or people, so the intervener provides accessible opportunities. Without the support of an intervener, a DeafBlind student might not be aware of, or understand, concepts, vocabulary, relationships, and language.

#### **October 23-24, 2026      Introduction to Deafblindness and Intervention**

Minnesota DeafBlind Project Team

#### **November 13-14, 2026      Hearing and Vision Loss, Impact of Deafblindness**

Kim Simshauser, Teacher of Blind/Visually Impaired

#### **January 15-16, 2027      The Power of Touch**

Lindsey Hegg, Teacher of Blind/Visually Impaired

#### **February 12-13, 2027      Concept Development**

Kim Simshauser, Teacher of Blind/Visually Impaired

#### **March 5-6, 2027      Communication and the Learner Who Is DeafBlind**

Nancy Steele, DeafBlind Educational Consultant

#### **April 9-10, 2027      The Importance of Self-Determination and Relationships**

Emma Mayes, Teacher of Blind/Visually Impaired

**Location:** **BrightWorks, 2 Pine Tree Drive, Suite 101, Arden Hills, MN 55112**

**Fridays, 5:00 to 9:00 p.m.** (Dinner at 4:30 p.m.)

**Saturdays, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.** (Lunch provided.)

### District Requests:

To hold a spot for a new intervener, district administrators should complete the [2026-2027 Intervener Training Series Hold Request electronic form](#). For all other questions, contact: [Ann.Mayes@brightworksmn.org](mailto:Ann.Mayes@brightworksmn.org). Reservations will be confirmed after the form is received.

After registration is confirmed, [Brandy.Sebera@brightworksmn.org](mailto:Brandy.Sebera@brightworksmn.org) will contact interveners from outside of the metro area to make arrangements for hotel accommodations. The Minnesota DeafBlind Project will

make all hotel reservations.

**Registration fee:** \$400 for 6 weekends - **Limited Space Available**

ASLIS is an Approved RID CMP Sponsor for continuing education activities. This workshop series is offered for 1.1 RID CEUs at the little/none or some content knowledge level for each completed weekend.



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