



Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program

San Diego City Schools Deaf and Hard of Hearing (D/HH) Program serves students from birth to age 22 who have bilateral hearing losses ranging from mild to profound. Students with an educationally significant unilateral hearing loss may also be eligible for D/HH services. The focus of the D/HH Program is to encourage maximum independence, provide integration with hearing peers, to foster the development of age appropriate communication skills, academic/career goals, social/emotional growth, educational services, technological education and assistance, introduce accommodations, and provide for communication access.

The D/HH Program curriculum is based on preschool - high school district/state standards, alternate curriculum, and supplemental curriculum as appropriate, as indicated in the student's Individualized Education Program, (IEP) which leads to a diploma, letter of recognition or certificate of completion.

Referrals: Initial contact is made to the D/HH Program by a parent, medical professional/agency, California Department of Education, Diagnostic Resource Teacher (DRT) or school staff. An audiological evaluation and report, and/or existing Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) or IEP verifies the hearing loss. The Program Diagnostic Resource Teacher refers the student's case to the appropriate staff members for evaluation. Eligibility of services is determined at an IFSP/IEP meeting.

Eligibility: Students are eligible for special education services through the D/HH program if there is a diagnosed bilateral hearing loss of 30 decibels (dB) or greater in the better ear, which causes communication, developmental, social/emotional, physical, and/or educational difficulties.

Program/Services: The placement options are:

- **Infant Home-Based Program** -- Birth to 18-month infants/toddlers and their parents receive specialized intervention by appropriately credentialed interdisciplinary team members and appropriate agencies experienced in working with infants and toddlers who have hearing losses. Parents are also provided instruction, support and strategies to use with their child for developing communication skills.
- **Special Day Classes** – Students, 18-months to 22 years, receive individualized instruction by an appropriately credentialed teacher of the deaf in the areas of academics, communication/visual skills, daily living skills, and work/career options.
- **Developmental Preschool** -- D/HH students, age three to five years, have the option of attending a regular developmental preschool program with hearing peers in addition to their special day class. The focus is to increase social interactions and reinforce their language/cognitive growth as well as to provide a strong foundation for kindergarten.
- **Itinerant Site-Based Class/Resource Program** -- Students are enrolled in general education classes at select elementary and secondary campuses where support services and instruction in all academic areas are provided by an on-site credentialed teacher of the deaf.

SUMMARY

- ❖ D/HH Program Office is located in the Clairemont area behind Marston Middle School.
- ❖ Approximately 450 students and families are served across all district schools.
- ❖ D/HH Special Day Classes are located at Lafayette Elementary, Kroc Middle and Madison High School.
- ❖ The D/HH Site-Based Itinerant/Resource Rooms are located at Lindbergh/Schweitzer Elementary, Whitman Elementary, and Madison High School.
- ❖ Staff includes D/HH Teachers, Diagnostic Resource Teachers, Audiologists Counselors, Nurses, Psychologist, Social Worker, Speech Pathologists, Speech Teachers, Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor, Interpreters, Transcribers, and Paraeducators.

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Program/Services: (Continued from front page)

- **Itinerant Program** -- Students who are enrolled in general education or other special education placements, receive educational support from Itinerant D/HH credentialed teachers in the areas of language, communication, academics, and career exploration.
- **State Special School** -- California School for the Deaf in Riverside (CSDR) provides comprehensive assessment services and if eligible and appropriate, residential school programs for students who have hearing losses.

Transition: As students articulate from the D/HH Infant Home-Based Program to Special Day Class, Elementary to Middle School, and Middle School to High School, transition support is provided to the family and/or the student. At the secondary level, students work with the D/HH Vocational Counselor on post-secondary preparation, which includes school to work/vocational training, career preparation, and/or college preparation.

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Serving nearly 136,000 students, San Diego City Schools is the second largest school district in California, with 202 educational facilities and more than 14,500 full-time equivalent positions (representing more than 15,800 employees). SDCS is improving student achievement by focusing on challenging instruction in reading, writing and mathematics in pre-kindergarten through Grade 12. The district is committed to supporting schools and enhancing the classroom learning environment through modernized facilities and resources and through parent, teacher and community involvement in the educational process.

**The mission of San Diego City Schools is to improve student achievement
by supporting teaching and learning in the classroom.**