




State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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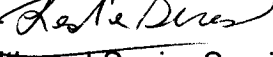
JON S. CORZINE
Governor


LUCILLE E. DAVY
Commissioner

October 6, 2008

TO: Chief School Administrator
Director of Special Services
Administrator of a College Operated Program
Lead Person of a Charter School
Director of Approved Private Schools for Students with Disabilities
Administrator of a Program for Students who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing
Agencies or Organizations Concerned with Special Education
Parent Organizations

FROM: Roberta Wohle, Director 
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Office of Special Education Programs

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New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services
Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Program

Terry Harrison, Part C Coordinator 
New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services
Early Intervention System

Pauline Lisciotto, Program Manager 
New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services
Special Child Health and Early Intervention Services

SUBJECT: Family and Educational Resources for Children with Hearing Loss

New Jersey has numerous resources for professionals and families of infants and children with hearing loss. In order to facilitate access to these resources, a fact sheet has been prepared that outlines the responsibilities of each program or agency. The fact sheet includes information on the newborn hearing screening program, early intervention services for children age birth to three, educational programs for children ages three to twenty-one and special child health services. Resources for children attending nonpublic schools, transition services, and programs for equipment

distribution, family support and mental health are also included. In addition to the program descriptions, links to the websites are provided.

We trust these resources will be helpful to you. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Therese Sheehan, coordinator of educational programs/resources at (609) 633-7665 Voice or (609) 984-8432 TTY or Karen Noble, regional educational consultant for students with hearing loss at (609) 530-3244 Voice, or (609) 530-3145 Voice/TTY, or (609) 530- 3156 Voice/Videophone.

RW/LB/TH/PL/tgs

Attachment

c: Members, State Board of Education
Commissioner Lucille E. Davy
Senior Staff
Barbara Gantwerk
Celeste Andriot Wood
Susan Martz
Gloria Rodriguez
David Alexander
Bonnie Teman
Therese Sheehan
Barbara Tkach
Karen Noble
Executive County Superintendent
County Supervisor of Child Study
Statewide Parent Advocacy Network
Members, NJ Lee Group
Garden State Coalition of School

Fact Sheet

Family and Educational Resources in New Jersey for Children with Hearing Loss

New Jersey Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Program (NJEHDI)

NJEHDI is a program designed to assist birthing facilities with newborn hearing screening and follow-up. NJEHDI also ensures that families of children age **birth to three** have information regarding the diagnosis of a hearing loss and timely intervention. This program has developed documents and designed a website with health care information and resources for families of children with hearing loss. These include, but are not limited to, health care provider information, speech and hearing checklists, and contact information for Child Evaluation Centers and craniofacial centers. A Pediatric Hearing Health Care Directory has also been developed which includes facilities that have responded to a Department of Health survey. These facilities list the location of pediatric audiologists and hearing aid dispensers. This information may be found at www.state.nj.us/health/fhs/ehdi.

New Jersey Early Intervention System (NJEIS)

If a child is age **birth to three and has a hearing loss in one or both ears**, parents/guardians may notify the NJEIS, System Point of Entry (SPOE) by calling (888) 653-4463. A service coordinator will speak to them about the referral process and facilitate the scheduling of an evaluation/assessment to determine the child's developmental levels and current needs. Following the evaluation/assessment, a service coordinator will coordinate the development of an individualized family service plan to address the outcomes and early intervention services which may be needed for the child and family. Information on the NJ Early Intervention System is available at www.state.nj.us/health/fhs/eis.

New Jersey Office of Special Education Programs (NJOSEP)

Public School Students

NJOSEP coordinates programs and resources for students with hearing loss between the ages of three to twenty-one. A website of resources for students with hearing loss and may be found at www.nj.gov/education/specialed/deaf. Flow charts explaining the referral process and coordination of programs offered by various state agencies and programs for this population may be found in the parent section on this website.

If a child is age **three to twenty-one**, parents/guardians may notify the district of residence in writing that they have a child with a hearing loss and request an evaluation to determine if the child needs special education and related services. District personnel will review the letter and schedule a meeting with the parents/guardians to determine if the child should be evaluated by the district's child study team. The website for the list of school districts and contact information may be found at www.state.nj.us/education/directory/.

At this meeting, the district may consider technical assistance from one of the NJ regional educational consultants for students with hearing loss. The NJ regional educational consultant positions are funded through an interoffice agreement between NJOSEP and the New Jersey School for the Deaf (Katzenbach). The regional consultants provide consulting services regarding the development of appropriate educational programs for this population at no charge to the district. The request for educational consultation form may be found at www.nj.gov/education/specialed/deaf under the New Jersey Resources section.

Specialized evaluations, which are available from the specialized child study teams for students who are deaf/hard of hearing, are another resource funded by NJOSEP and coordinated through the New Jersey School for the Deaf. Handouts describing the services of the specialized child study teams and outlining the fee schedule may be found at www.mkasd.org.

NJOSEP maintains information for parents/guardians on the implementation of special education policies and programs. N.J.A.C. 6A:14, the New Jersey Administrative Code for Special Education, may be accessed at www.state.nj.us/education/specialed/reg/. The Parental Rights in Special Education handbook (PRISE) may be found in multiple languages at www.nj.gov/education/specialed/form.

Nonpublic School Students

According to the regulations implementing the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), children with disabilities who are enrolled in nonpublic schools or early childhood programs by their parents shall be provided an opportunity for equitable participation in the special education programs and related services being provided by the responsible school district. If a child is age **three to five** and enrolled in an early childhood program in a nonpublic elementary school, parents/guardians may contact the **district of residence** and request a full child study team evaluation. A representative from the district will review the letter and schedule a meeting with them to determine if the child should be evaluated by the district's child study team.

If the child is enrolled in an elementary or secondary program in a **nonpublic school, and is age five to twenty-one**, parents/guardians may request a child study team evaluation from the **district of attendance**. The district of attendance is the public school district where the nonpublic school is located. Parents/guardians may write a letter to the district of attendance or they may complete the Nonpublic Student Application form found at www.nj.gov/education/nonpublic/chap192_193.pdf. The request will be reviewed by personnel from the district of attendance or a representative from an approved clinic or agency (e.g. an educational services commission) that has a contract with the local district of attendance to evaluate students enrolled in nonpublic schools. A meeting will be scheduled with the parents/guardians to determine if the child should be evaluated by the child study team from the district of attendance or the child study team from an approved clinic or agency. The district of attendance may consider technical assistance from one of the NJ regional educational consultants for students with hearing loss and may consider evaluations from the specialized child study teams for students who are deaf/hard of hearing.

New Jersey Special Child Health Services (SCHS)

If a child is age **birth through twenty-one**, parents/guardians may notify the SCHS case management unit in the county of residence that they have a child with a hearing loss. A SCHS case manager will contact them and discuss the various programs and services available. The parents/guardians may wish to share with the SCHS case manager the child's current educational program so that resources may be coordinated between the SCHS unit and the responsible school district. The contact information for the county case management units and additional information on the services available through the case management units may be found at www.state.nj.us/health/fhs.

New Jersey Division of the Deaf/Hard of Hearing (NJDDHH)

NJDDHH offers advocacy services and support to individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing. This agency coordinates an equipment distribution program for eligible New Jersey families. The equipment options include, but are not limited to text telephones, smoke detectors and artificial larynx devices. Further information may be found at www.state.nj.us/humanservices/ddhh.

New Jersey Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (NJDVRS)

NJDVRS offers transition services for students with disabilities beginning at age 14. Although school districts have the primary responsibility to refer a student to DVRS, a parent may also make the referral to the DVRS office in the county of residence. DVRS Deaf Specialists are available to assist with transitioning planning, vocational assessments and technical assistance regarding the issues of transition from school to work or school to post secondary education. Contact information may be accessed at <http://lwd.dol.state.nj.us/labor/dvrs/DVRIndex.html>.

New Jersey Department of Children and Families (NJDCF)

NJDCF offers a continuum of programs and services to strengthen children and families. In addition to child welfare services, Case Management Organizations have been established in each county to provide case management and comprehensive service planning for children with intense complex needs. Family support organizations (FSO) have also been established in each county to support the families of children with emotional, behavioral or mental health challenges. Information on support groups, educational programs and emergency services may be found at www.state.nj.us/dcf.

New Jersey Department of Human Services (NJ DHS)

NJDHS, Division of Mental Health Services, supports programs for individuals who are deaf and hard of hearing in various hospitals and community centers. Psychiatric services, in-patient programs and out-patient counseling services are available. A list of programs may be found at www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dmhs/about_dmhs.html.

Twelve step programs for individuals with problems involving drugs or alcohol are also available throughout New Jersey. A directory of these programs may be found in the document "Organizations Serving People with Hearing Loss" organized by the Division of the Deaf/Hard of Hearing and updated at www.state.nj.us/humanservices/ddhh.

Family Support

The New Jersey Statewide Parent Advocacy Network sponsors numerous programs to support families of children with developmental delays, disabilities and special health needs. These projects include, but are not limited to, Project CARE, a partnership between Special Child Health Services and SPAN, Family Voices, a project to support families of children with chronic health conditions, and NJ Parent To Parent, a network of parents supporting other parents. Additional information about these programs may be accessed at www.spannj.org.

The Alexander Graham Bell Association has a New Jersey Chapter which offers support to families of children with hearing loss. Information on advocacy, professional development, family support groups, and youth groups may be found at www.agbellnj.org.