

Educational Resources

for Children With Hearing Loss

Mission

ERCHL is an advisory committee whose mission is to promote excellence in the provision of educational programs and services for all Pennsylvania students who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Tom Wolf
Governor



Work Scope

ERCHL, under the direction of the Bureau of Special Education (BSE), developed a Pennsylvania Agenda for Students Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing. The Agenda is a comprehensive blueprint of goals, actions, and outcomes in the following areas:

- Language and communication access
- Early identification and early intervention
- Family involvement
- Placements and programs
- Technology
- System responsibility: standards, assessment, and accountability
- Professional standards and preparation
- Collaborative partnerships

Outcomes achieved include, but are not limited to:

- Developing a communication plan that is completed by Individualized Education Program (IEP) teams and informs the team regarding the communication needs of each student
- Supporting qualified educational interpreters in Pennsylvania schools to meet requirements addressed in Chapter 14

- Providing support and networking opportunities for parents
- Exploring program needs and options for students who are deaf or hard of hearing with concomitant disabilities such as autism, mental health issues, and blindness

Responsibilities

- Respond to requests from the Bureau of Special Education for information and advice concerning the education of children who are deaf or hard of hearing
- Bring current issues pertaining to the education of children who are deaf or hard of hearing to the attention of the Bureau of Special Education
- Advocate for and monitor standards of quality for education personnel working with students who are deaf or hard of hearing (teachers, paraprofessionals, interpreters)
- Work collaboratively with other state agencies providing services to children who are deaf or hard of hearing

Membership

Members are appointed by the director of the Bureau of Special Education. Membership includes representatives from the following stakeholder groups:

- Parents
- Educational interpreters
- Local educational agencies
- Intermediate units
- Schools and programs for students who are deaf or hard of hearing or deafblind
- Teacher preparation programs
- Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL)
- Pennsylvania Office for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (ODHH)
- Pennsylvania Society for the Advancement of the Deaf (PSAD)
- Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network (PaTTAN)
- Pennsylvania Department of Education, Bureau of Special Education