

The U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Middle District of Pennsylvania are committed to ensuring effective communication between the public and school districts and enforcing Title II of the American's with Disabilities Act (ADA).

LEGAL INFORMATION

Schools should consult:

- Title II of the American's with Disabilities Act
- Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act
- Individuals with Disabilities Education Act

MORE INFORMATION

For more information check out www.ada.gov

You can also contact the Department of Justice ADA Information Line:
800-514-0301 (voice)
800-514-0383 (TTY)

EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION BY SCHOOL DISTRICTS

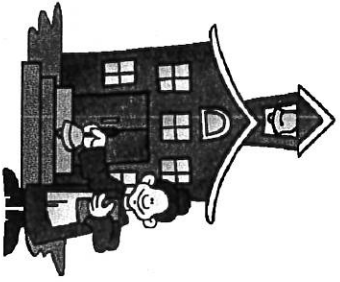


UNITED STATES
ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

Middle District of Pennsylvania

Meeting the communication needs of students, parents, guardians, and members of the public with hearing, vision, and speech impairments.

Effective Communication to Everyone a School District Serves



Federal law requires that public school districts ensure that communication with students with hearing, vision, or speech disabilities is as effective as communication with students without disabilities. Effective communication obligations are not limited just to students - schools are obligated to provide effective communication to all individuals who seek to participate in or benefit from a school district's services, programs, or activities such as student registration, parent-teacher conferences, meetings, ceremonies, performances, open houses, and field trips. Schools must provide auxiliary aids and services to persons with a hearing, vision, or speech disability who are not students such as parents, other relatives, guardians, and other members of the public.

Helpful Tips for School Districts

- Do not charge for auxiliary aids or services that ensure effective communication
- Place information on the district's public accessible webpage as to how to request a auxiliary aids and services.
- Proactively notify parents, students, and the community about the right to effective communication
- Appoint a coordinator to implement and comply with federal and state laws regarding effective communication.
- Train staff in the requirements of federal and state laws.
- Evaluate which auxiliary aids or services will provide effective communication on an individual basis.

Examples of Auxiliary Aids and Services

- Interpreters
 - must be qualified
 - skill to understand what person with disability is saying and skill to convey information to person with disability
- Note takers
- Exchange of written materials
- Real-time computer aided transcript services
- Assistive listening systems
- Accessible electronic and information technology
- Open and closed captioning
- Word or letter board
- Braille materials and displays
- Screen reader software
- Accessible electronic and information technology

