“Meeting the unique communication and related needs of a child who is deaf is a fundamental part of providing a free appropriate public education (FAPE) to the child. Any setting, including a regular classroom, that prevents a child who is deaf from receiving an appropriate education that meets his or her needs, including communication needs, is not LRE for that individual child.” (E.D., 1992, 57 Fed. Reg. 49274)

IDEA [§300.115] and K.S.A. 72-967 specifically address the need for teams to consider the continuum of alternative placements with the provision of supplementary services (e.g., resource room, itinerant instruction, related services) to be provided in conjunction with regular class placement.

Factors to be considered in determining the appropriate educational placement should include the child’s communication, linguistic, social, personal, and cultural needs. Placement options for students who are D/HH include:

- Kansas School for the Deaf (special education school)
- General education class
- Special education class
- Homebound
- Hospital or other public or private institution

An appropriate placement for students who are D/HH should provide the following:

- personnel who understand how the student’s hearing loss impacts his/her ability to function in a typical classroom setting and in the school environment as a whole;
- full development of language for the child that is based on the language abilities of the child;
- certified and qualified personnel trained to work with D/HH children and who can effectively communicate in the student’s identical language and communication mode, including deaf role models;
- access to the general education curriculum with modifications in pedagogy to account for the child’s unique language, learning, and communication needs;
- personnel who are knowledgeable about evaluating and managing a classroom placement that requires interpreting services;
- a sufficient number of age-appropriate and level-appropriate peers who share the child’s language and communication preferences;
- the availability of, and access to, extracurricular activities for students who are D/HH;
- the availability of appropriate assistive technology for students who are D/HH;
- the support of informed parents.

KSD Outreach Mission: To provide the highest quality of services, resources, and support to children ages birth-21 who are deaf/hard of hearing by collaborating with their families, their communities, and the professionals that serve them.