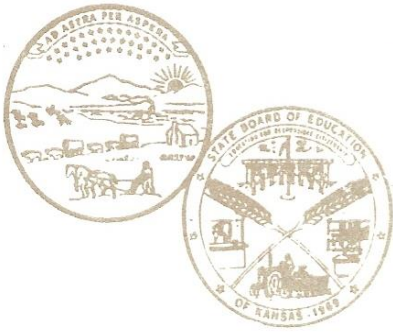


# Kansas School for the Deaf

*A Resource in Deafness Since 1861*

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March 20, 2019

To whom it may concern:

In 2016, K.S.A. 75-5397e was passed requiring Kansas to establish a language assessment program to assess, monitor, and track the language developmental milestones of each child who is deaf or hard of hearing from birth through age eight in Kansas for the purpose of achieving age-appropriate language development and providing data-driven interventions. In response, the Language Assessment Program-Deaf/Hard of Hearing (LAP-DHH) was developed and approved by the Kansas Senate Committee on Education.

This program is required for all children who are deaf/hard of hearing birth through age eight including those with an IFSP, IEP, 504 plan and those who currently might not currently qualify for additional support (e.g., general education). The Kansas School for the Deaf (KSD) has been charged with administering this program and the assessments it requires. An annual language assessment will be provided for each of these children. The language assessment will include the use of various evaluations in the areas of receptive, expressive, and social language. The assessments will evaluate American Sign Language (ASL) and/or English based on each child's needs. Specific assessment results will be shared with the child's parents and appropriate staff. Aggregated results of all of the children will be shared with the Kansas State Legislature as required by the law. Please find enclosed the first report that was submitted in January, 2019.

Additionally, KSD will be responsible for securing and training LAP-DHH specialists who will be conducting the assessments throughout the State. All LAP-DHH specialists must meet certain qualifications and go through training in order to be eligible to give the assessments. They will be evaluating the children in their preferred language every six months either through formal assessments or progress monitoring at the child's home or school as appropriate. These assessments will be done in collaboration with the child's team and with the parents. The LAP-DHH specialist will provide a written report to staff and parents explaining assessment results. At this time, there will be no costs to the family, tiny-k program, or school district.

Due to the large number of children who are deaf/hard of hearing in Kansas, this program is being implemented in phases. In July 2018, LAP-DHH began assessing children who were currently receiving birth to three services through KSD's Sound START program. In July 2019, the program will begin assessing children who attend KSD as well as any children who have been seen through the KSD Outreach department up to age eight. During subsequent years, the program will expand to include all children who are ages birth to three (2020), ages three to five (2021), and ages five to eight (2022). Because children will remain in the program until they are eight years old, school districts may have children who will be transitioning from Sound START before the scheduled three to five phase in 2021. If that occurs, a LAP-DHH specialist will contact you to explain the process.

In the meantime, if you have any deaf/hard of hearing children in your program or school, regardless of whether or not they are receiving special education services, please contact me to get them registered so they can begin the program during the appropriate phase.

As mentioned above, all LAP-DHH specialists must meet certain qualifications and go through training in order to be eligible to give the assessments. We will be hiring and training specialists throughout the state. If you have a teacher of the deaf, speech-language pathologist, or early childhood special education teacher who may be eligible to become a LAP-DHH specialist, please have them contact me.

Please share this information with your staff and families, and contact me if you have questions. Additional information will be released as the program develops. I look forward to working with you and your staff in implementing and advancing this program which will lead to positive language acquisition and academic success in Kansas' children who are deaf/hard of hearing.

Sincerely,

Angie Walker, M.Ed.  
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*The limits of my language are the limits of my world.*

*~Ludwig Wittgenstein*

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