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# THE VIRGINIA COMMUNICATION PLAN FOR A STUDENT WHO IS DEAF OR HARD OF HEARING

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# Overview

- *Background & Purpose*
- *Developing the Plan*
- *Guidance & Resources*
- *Q & A*



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# *Background and Purpose*



# ★ IEP Special Factors Consideration for Students Who Are Deaf & Hard of Hearing

- *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA, 2004)*
- *Regulations Governing Special Education Programs for Children with Disabilities in Virginia (2010)*

# Federal & State Mandates

**8VAC20-81-110**. Individualized Education Program:

*...The IEP team also shall: **(34 CFR 300.324(a))***

- In the case of a child who is deaf or hard of hearing, consider the child's language and communication needs, opportunities for direct communications with peers and professional personnel in the child's language and communication mode, academic level, and full range of needs, including opportunities for direct instruction in the child's language and communication mode; and*
- Consider whether the child requires assistive technology devices and services.*

# QUESTION?

*Do the federal (IDEA) and/or state (VA) regulations mandate the development and use of a “communication plan” for the IEP team’s consideration of the special factors for students who are deaf or hard of hearing?*



## The answer is, *NO*.

- The federal and state regulations do not mandate the use of a specified “communication plan” or document.

## However;

- The federal and state regulations mandate consideration of the special factors as part of the IEP development and review process.



- **Virginia school divisions may include the VA Communication Plan in their local practices, policies and procedures.**
- **Some states require the use of a specified “communication plan”.**





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# *Developing the Plan*



## VA Communication Plan

**A tool to assist the IEP team with systematically:**

- *gathering and examining information;*
- *considering the student's language, communication and academic needs; and*
- *considering the student's assistive technology needs.*

**It can be used 'as is' or modified by the IEP team.**



## Consider the student's individualized needs:

- *Effective communication*
- *Access to the general curriculum*
- *Specially designed instruction*
- *Additional disabilities*



## ***Components of the Plan***

- I. Language and Communication Modalities***
- II. Amplification/Accommodations***
- III. Opportunities for Direct Communication***
- IV. Academic Level***
- V. Full Range of Needs***



## IEP teams may utilize the VA Communication Plan within the IEP development and review process to:

- *Review current data*
- *Discuss strengths & needs*
- *Document information (PLAAFP, special factors, PWN)*
- *Plan supports*
- *Implement services*
- *Review/monitor progress*



## Consider input from the student's educational team:

- *General and special education teachers (ToDHH)*
- *Related service providers (SLP, interpreter, audiologist)*
- *Parents*
- *Paraprofessionals/interveners*
- *Student*
- *Administrators*



## Consider opportunities for direct instruction and communication in the student's language and communication mode:

- *Across multiple settings/activities*
  - *General education*
  - *Small group/individual*
  - *Resource/extra-curricular*
- *With peers and adults*
  - *Hearing*
  - *Deaf and hard of hearing*
  - *Professional staff/school personnel*



## Consider the student's assistive technology needs:

- *Personal or school issued*
- *Monitoring*
- *Training for:*
  - *student*
  - *school personnel*
  - *parents*





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# ***GUIDANCE AND RESOURCES***



- *Virginia Communication Plan for a Student Who is Deaf or Hard of Hearing (2019)*
- *Guidelines for Working With Students Who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing in Virginia Public Schools (2019), Appendix G*
- *Optimizing Outcomes for Students Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing-Educational Service Guidelines, Third Edition (NASDSE, 2018)*
- *Virginia IEP System (Sample IEP Form)*



- ***Technical Assistance Center for Children Who Are Deaf and Hard of Hearing at PPD/VCU and VNOOC***

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- ★ ***Introducing, Virtual Social Groups***

- VA students who are deaf/hard of hearing (K-12)
- Facilitated by TAC-DHH and VA ToDHH
- Discussion topics selected for separate grade level groups



- ***VA School for the Deaf and the Blind***  
Pat Trice, Superintendent  
[patricia.trice@vsdbs.virginia.gov](mailto:patricia.trice@vsdbs.virginia.gov)
- ***VA Project for Children and Young Adults  
with Deaf-Blindness***  
Ira Padhye, Project Director  
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- ***VA Department for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing***  
Eric Raff, Director  
[eric.raff@vddhh.virginia.gov](mailto:eric.raff@vddhh.virginia.gov)
- ***VA Hearing Aid Loan Bank***  
Lisa Powley, Coordinator  
[lkp2v@virginia.edu](mailto:lkp2v@virginia.edu)



- ***Accessible Instructional Materials Center-VA  
(AIM-VA)***  
Cindy George, Project Director  
[cgeorge4@gmu.edu](mailto:cgeorge4@gmu.edu)
- ***VA Educational Interpreter Regional  
Professional Development Program***  
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# *Questions & Answers*



*Thank you, for participating and  
supporting students who are deaf and  
hard of hearing in Virginia!*

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