



Hearing Siblings at the School for the Deaf

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Authorized By: Utah State Board of Education

1. Purpose and Background

- 1.1. Generally, enrollment at the Utah School for the Deaf (USD) is reserved for children who are deaf and hard of hearing.
- 1.2. On rare occasions, a hearing sibling of a student who is deaf or hard of hearing may be approved for enrollment at USD to benefit one or more deaf students, subject to strict limitations set forth in the Board rule and the provisions of this policy.
- 1.3. Enrollment of a hearing student at USD is the exception and not the rule, and does not create an entitlement for a hearing student or for the family of the student.
- 1.4. This policy clarifies expectations and provides procedures for permitting siblings of deaf and/or hard-of-hearing children to attend the school for the deaf.

2. Applicable References

- 2.1. [UCA §53E-8-402](#) (USDB Entrance Policies and Procedures)
- 2.2. [R277-800-9](#) (Enrollment of Siblings)
 - 2.2.1. USDB may enroll the sibling of a student who is deaf subject to the considerations set forth in this Section R277-800-9
 - 2.2.2. A hearing sibling attending USDB retains all rights of a traditional public school student with the exception of certain items outlined in [R277-800-9](#) and this policy.
 - 2.2.3. Enrollment of a hearing sibling is limited to:
 - 2.2.3.1. siblings of students who are enrolled in a campus program; and
 - 2.2.3.2. one hearing sibling per class.
 - 2.2.4. The USDB Administration shall evaluate the enrollment of a hearing sibling including:
 - 2.2.4.1. whether enrollment of the hearing sibling would be a benefit to:

- 2.2.4.1.1. the student who is deaf;
 - 2.2.4.1.2. the hearing sibling; and
 - 2.2.4.1.3. the other students in the deaf program; and
- 2.2.4.2. whether the hearing sibling has a record of behavior problems or other conditions that would impede the development of the students who are deaf or hard of hearing.
- 2.2.5. If a parent enrolls a hearing sibling at USDB, the parent shall agree at the time of registration:
 - 2.2.5.1. that enrollment for the hearing sibling is within the discretion of the school and may be rescinded at any time with or without cause; and
 - 2.2.5.2. that the hearing sibling knows or is willing to learn American Sign Language and embrace the Deaf culture while at school.

3. Intake Process

- 3.1. Each educational director in consultation with the impacted teacher, a related service provider, and another educational director will determine if placement within a USD program will be a good fit for the sibling and the deaf students currently enrolled.
- 3.2. The parent of the deaf child enrolled at USD requests that a hearing sibling be considered for placement in a USD classroom.
 - 3.2.1. This request will include:
 - 3.2.1.1. Name of the deaf sibling and grade level,
 - 3.2.1.2. Demographic information of the hearing sibling,
 - 3.2.1.3. Historical academic record of the student,
 - 3.2.1.4. Description of benefits to deaf students,
 - 3.2.1.5. Requested start date
- 3.3. The hearing sibling will visit the school and meet with the educational director where the sibling would like to be placed.
- 3.4. The educational director will compile information from the parent and school visit and present it to the impacted teacher, related service provider, and another educational director for review.
 - 3.4.1. The committee will consider the hearing student, current student numbers in the proposed class, transportation, and any extenuating circumstances before making a final recommendation to the Educational Director.
 - 3.4.2. The Educational Director will report this recommendation to the Associate Superintendent of the Deaf for final review.

- 3.4.3. If more than one student is requesting consideration for the same grade level, the committee will give preference to the student that would provide the greater benefit to the deaf student(s).
- 3.4.4. All of the decisions are final and cannot be appealed beyond the Associate Superintendent of the Deaf.

4. Enrollment Process

- 4.1. If the sibling is recommended for enrollment by the committee, the parent of the hearing sibling, the hearing sibling, and the educational director sign a [Hearing Sibling Agreement Form](#) that includes language usage, behavior, and academic expectations.
- 4.2. Upon receipt of the signed [Hearing Sibling Agreement Form](#), the parent/student is given the registration code and link to PowerSchool enrollment for the specific school.
- 4.3. Students on an IEP or 504 should have a placement meeting to consider LRE.

5. Removing a Student

- 5.1. If at any point, the hearing sibling fails to meet the expectations outlined in the [Hearing Sibling Agreement](#), USD may excuse the student from the program.
- 5.2. For students with an Individualized Education or 504 Plan, the team is convened to discuss placement.
- 5.3. At the end of each school year, the contract ends and the family will need to reapply by the last day of school to remain with USD the next year.