There are 3 basic systems in place that provide public deaf education services in the state of Texas. A student may receive services from one or more of these systems.

1. LEA - Local education agency (home school district)
2. RDSPD - Regional Day School Programs for the Deaf
3. TSD – Texas School for the Deaf

ECI (Early Childhood Intervention) assists families with children who have a hearing loss, birth to three years of age, to coordinate access to these educational services.

**1. LEA – Local Education Agency**

Local school districts may provide services directly to a student who is deaf or hard-of-hearing at the student's local school using district resources and staff or they may contract some or all of the services through the local RDSPD or directly with a service provider. Services are provided at the student’s “home” school, meaning whatever local campus the child would normally attend based on their residence. Contact your school district’s Special Education Director for more details about what is offered in your local district.

**2. RDSPD – Regional Day School Program for the Deaf**

Currently, in Texas, there are 53 RDSPDs divided by 20 regions. These programs were developed to help maximize resources and staff, to better serve students throughout the state. Each RDSPD is unique and may offer various services depending on the number of students they serve, as well as other factors.

Many local districts do not have resources in place for students who are eligible for AI (Auditory Impaired) services since hearing loss is a low-incidence disability effecting approximately 1-3 students per 1000. Contact your Education Service Center (ESC) DHH contact person for more information about local programs in your area. A website link with a complete listing of DHH contacts is provided on the contacts page. To find which ESC serves your school district go to the Texas Education agency website at [www.tea.state.tx.us](http://www.tea.state.tx.us) and click on the “District Locator” tab or call TEA at 512-463-9734.

**Some services that a RDSPD may provide include:**

**Itinerant Teacher/Professional Services:**

(Includes deaf education services, audiology services, speech therapy etc...)

An itinerant teacher or professional travels among multiple schools offering services to eligible students and/or their teachers based on the student’s IEP. Usually these services are listed by number of minutes per week within a student’s IEP. There are two types of itinerant services:

- **Consult Services** – Deaf Ed itinerant teacher/professionals act as consultants to the general education teacher(s) to guide them using strategies for students who are deaf or hard of hearing.
- **Direct Services** – Deaf Education itinerant teacher/professional instructs the student directly for a certain portion of the week based on the IEP.
Some services that a RDSPD may provide include: (con.)

Instruction at a “Cluster Site”
Some RDSPDs have “cluster” sites, which are campuses in centralized locations where resources and staff can be consolidated in order to provide deaf education services that can benefit a larger number of students. This is typically done through two types of classroom settings:

- **Self-contained classroom** – Classroom with all AI eligible students taught by a deaf education teacher. Teacher to student ratios are lower in these classrooms than in a general education classroom.
- **Mainstream classroom** – Eligible students are in a general education classroom with accommodations, which may include an interpreter, FM systems, etc...

**NOTE:** Students may receive services in one or both types of classrooms, depending on what is specified in their IEP/ARD

**ELIGIBILITY FOR RDSPD SERVICES:**
In order for a student to receive deaf education services they must be eligible. Eligibility for Auditory Impairment (AI) and RDSPD services are outlined on the TEA website:

[http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/rules/tac/chapter089/ch089aa.html#89.1040](http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/rules/tac/chapter089/ch089aa.html#89.1040)

**3. TSD – Texas School for the Deaf**
Texas School for the Deaf serves the entire state of Texas and is located in downtown Austin. TSD programs serve students from birth to the age of 22. Typically, students who are 6 or older and not from the Austin area can stay in the dorm Sunday night through Friday afternoon. If the student lives in Austin or the surrounding areas they can be a day student and commute. In order for a student to attend TSD they must be “referred” for admission. There are generally three ways a referral can be made:

- **LEA or home district referral:**
The LEA IEP team, which includes the student’s parents or legal guardian, agrees that TSD is an appropriate placement for the student. TSD will then convene it’s own assessment IEP meeting to determine if placement at TSD is appropriate.

- **Parent Referral:**
A parent or legal guardian can request placement of their child at TSD without agreement from their local IEP team. TSD will then convene it’s own assessment IEP meeting to determine if placement at TSD is appropriate.

- **Student Referral:**
A student can refer himself or herself if they are age 18 or older. TSD will then convene it’s own assessment IEP meeting to determine if placement at TSD is appropriate.

**Transportation to/from TSD:**
If the LEA agrees with the placement, then TSD and/or the LEA provide weekend/holiday transportation for a residential student or daily transportation for a day student. If the student is referred by a parent and is accepted by TSD, then TSD would typically provide transportation. Parents are responsible for transporting a residential student at the beginning of the school year and at the end of the school year. Contact the TSD Admissions office at 512-462-5417 for more information or visit the TSD website at www.tsd.state.tx.us.
PRIVATE AND CHARTER SCHOOLS
FOR THE DEAF IN TEXAS

In addition to public school programs in Texas, the following private or charter programs are also available for parents to consider. Questions about admissions and fee schedules should be directed to the individual programs listed below: This listing was current at time of printing.

The Center for Hearing and Speech
3636 West Dallas
Houston, TX 77019
713-523-3633
www.centerhearingandspeech.org

Lovers Lane Academy for the Deaf
9200 Inwood Rd.
Dallas, TX 75220
214-706-9599
http://www.deafacademy.com

Jean Massieu Academy Charter School
823 North Center Street
Arlington, TX 76011
817-460-0396
http://www.jeanmassieu.com/

Sunshine Cottage
103 Tuleta Drive
San Antonio, TX 78212
212-824-0579
www.sunshinecottage.org
Suggested contacts for information about deaf education services in Texas

Education Service Centers
http://www.tea.state.tx.us/regional_services/esc/

Regional Day School Program for the Deaf Directory:
http://portal.esc20.net/portal/page/portal/esc20public/SpecialEducation/Deaf/RegionalContacts

Texas Education Agency
512.463.9734
http://www.tea.state.tx.us/index2.aspx?id=2147497727

Texas School for the Deaf:
512.462.5353 or 800.DEAF.TSD
www.tsd.state.tx.us

Early Childhood Intervention (ECI):
800.628.5115
www.dars.state.tx.us/ecis

Texas Deafblind Project:
http://www.tsbvi.edu/texas-deafblind-project
Acronyms Related to Deaf/Special Education in Texas:

AI- Auditory Impairment
ARD - Admission /Review/Dismissal
ASL- American Sign Language
CI- Cochlear Implant
DHHS – Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services
HOH- Hard of Hearing
ECI- Early Childhood Intervention
ESC - Education Service Center
FM- (Frequency Modulation) Classroom amplification system
IEP – Individualized Education Program
ISD- Independent School District
LEA- Local Education Agency (also known as your local or home school district.)
RDSPD – Regional Day School Program for the Deaf
SEE- Signing Exact English
SEE II- Signing Exact English (Version 2)
TEA- Texas Education Agency
TSD- Texas School for the Deaf
### Eligibility for Auditory Impairment (AI) and Regional Day School Program for the Deaf (RDSPD)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State Eligibility for Auditory Impairment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>19 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §89.1040(c)(3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auditory Impairment. A student with an auditory impairment is one who has been determined to meet the criteria for deafness as stated in 34 CFR, §300.7(c)(3), or for hearing impairment as stated in 34 CFR, §300.7(c)(5). The evaluation data reviewed by the multidisciplinary team in connection with the determination of a student's eligibility based on an examination performed by an otologist or by a licensed medical doctor, with documentation that an otologist is not reasonably available. An audiological evaluation by a licensed audiologist shall also be conducted. The evaluation data shall include a description of the implications of the hearing loss for the student’s hearing in a variety of circumstances with or without recommended amplification.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Federal Requirement for Hearing Impairment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>34 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) §300.7(c)(5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hearing Impairment means an impairment in hearing, whether permanent or fluctuating, that adversely affects a child’s educational performance but that is not included under the definition of deafness in this section.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Federal Requirement for Deafness</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>34 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) §300.7(c)(3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deafness means a hearing impairment so severe that the child is impaired in processing linguistic information through hearing, with or without amplification, that adversely affects a child’s educational performance.</td>
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<tr>
<th>State Eligibility for Regional Day School Program for the Deaf</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>19 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §89.1080</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional Day School Program for the Deaf.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In accordance with the Texas Education Code (TEC), §§30.081-30.087, local school districts shall have access to regional day school programs for the deaf operated by school districts at sites previously established by the State Board of Education (SBOE). Any student who has a hearing impairment which severely impairs processing linguistic information through hearing, even with recommended amplification, and which adversely affects educational performance shall be eligible for the Regional Day School Program for the Deaf, subject to the admission, review, and dismissal (ARD) committee recommendations.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Education Service Centers in Texas
What is an ESC?

There are over 1200 school districts in Texas divided into 20 regions. Each region has an ESC (Education Service Center) and each service center provides support to the school districts within that region. Services may include professional training and development for school personnel and state and community agencies, as well as training for parents on a variety of topics.

To locate which region your school district belongs to, go to www.tea.state.tx.us and click on the district locator tab or call TEA at 512-463-9734.

Each ESC also has a designated DHH contact person who can provide information about deaf education services within a particular region. A listing can be found on the ESC 11 website, go to: http://www.esc11.net/site/default.aspx?pageid=2372 and scroll down to the end of the first paragraph and look for "DHH Contact 2013-2014 Directory"

The Educational Resource Center on Deafness

The Educational Resource Center on Deafness (ERCOD) provides outreach services across the state of Texas related to the education of deaf and hard of hearing students, ages birth – 21. ERCOD provides family and professional trainings, referrals and resource information.

For more information call 512-462-5329, email ercod@tsd.state.tx.us or visit http://www.texasdhhresources.org

Education Service Center Deaf Education Leadership:

ESC 10 - Birth to 5

ESC 20 - Access to the General Curriculum
http://portal.esc20.net/portal/page/portal/esc20public/SpecialEducation/Deaf

ESC 11 - Communication Access
http://www.esc11.net/site/default.aspx?pageid=2372