

Guidelines for Documentation of Deaf/Hard of Hearing

Deafness can be defined in general as inability to perceive sound or speech. Deafness, as defined by individuals within the Deaf community, generally refers only to individuals whose language is American Sign Language (ASL). Hard of hearing, in the Deaf community, refers to individuals who have hearing loss, who may or may not use ASL, and who often interact with hearing individuals. For SSD purposes, hard of hearing will simply describe individuals with a degree of hearing loss for which they require classroom accommodation.

Professionals recommended to provide documentation include general physicians, otologists, otorhinolaryngologists, audiologists, and speech language pathologists.

Documentation adequate to establish eligibility for services *must* include:

- ❖ A written statement of diagnosis and etiology
- ❖ Specification of assessment procedures and instruments used to make the diagnosis
- ❖ Current audiogram
- ❖ Classification of the degree of hearing loss as to mild, moderate, or severe
- ❖ Information regarding functional limitations and academic impact of the hearing loss
- ❖ Information regarding the student's preferred form of communication (e.g. ASL, Signed English, Speech Reading, Aural Trainer, etc.)