

Navigating Campus Life: Key Questions to Ask About Deaf and Hard of Hearing Support

Helping DHH students and families make informed college choices

Choosing the right college is a big decision for any student, but for Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DHH) students, it's especially important to find a campus where communication access, support services, and inclusive culture are part of everyday life. Whether you're visiting a large university or a small technical college, asking the right questions can help you determine if the school is equipped to meet your academic, social, and accessibility needs.

Here are some essential questions to ask during campus visits to better understand what support is available for DHH students, and how well those supports are actually working.



Access Services and Accommodations

- What types of communication access services are available (e.g., ASL interpreters, CART/captioning, assistive listening devices)?
- How do students request accommodations, and how early should they do so each semester?
- Who is responsible for coordinating interpreting or captioning services—the disability services office, or another department?
- Are there staff members specifically trained in working with Deaf and Hard of Hearing students?



Academic and Classroom Experience

- Are faculty trained in accessible teaching practices for DHH students?
- How are interpreters or captionists integrated into classroom settings?
- Can DHH students access tutoring, academic advising, and writing centers with appropriate communication support?



Housing and Campus Life

- Are there options for accessible or DHH-friendly housing (e.g., visual alert systems, vibrating alarms)?
- Is there a community of other DHH students on campus or a peer mentorship program?
- What opportunities exist for DHH students to participate in clubs, events, or leadership programs with access in place?



Safety and Emergency Preparedness

- How are emergency alerts communicated to DHH students (e.g., text alerts, visual alarms)?
- Are campus police or safety officers trained in communicating with Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals?



Social and Emotional Support

- Are there mental health or counseling services that are accessible to DHH students?
- Is there a Deaf student organization or club on campus?
- What do current or former DHH students say about their experience at this school?



Transition and Career Readiness

- Does the school offer career counseling, internship support, or job placement services tailored to DHH students?
- How does the school help students prepare for the transition into the workforce?

The right college is one that not only welcomes you—but truly includes you!

Media



Songs for a Whale

Lynne Kelly (Authors)

The award-winning and USA Today bestselling story of a deaf girl's connection to a whale whose song can't be heard by his species, and the journey she takes to help him.



Success Wisdom

Karen Putz (Author)

In "Success Wisdom by Deaf and Hard of Hearing People," readers are invited into a captivating anthology that celebrates the achievements and unique perspectives of over 100 deaf, hard of hearing, deafblind, deaf-disabled, Deaf Plus, and Late-Deafened individuals.

Gwen Bryant


HEALTH CARE TRANSITION FROM CHILD TO ADULT: WHY IT MATTERS FOR DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING YOUTH

If you're a parent of a Deaf or Hard of Hearing (DHH) child—especially one who also has additional disabilities (sometimes called “Deaf Plus”)—you know that managing health care can feel like a full-time job. That’s why planning ahead for the shift from pediatric to adult health care is so important.

As our kids grow up, they’ll eventually need to move on from the children’s doctors and specialists who’ve known them for years. This transition can be tricky for any family, but for DHH youth, it often comes with extra challenges, like finding providers who know how to communicate effectively, making sure interpreters or other supports are in place, and navigating adult systems that may not be as familiar with their unique needs.

For kids who are Deaf Plus, there may be even more layers—multiple diagnoses, medications, therapies, and the need for coordinated services across different agencies. That’s why starting early, having a plan, and helping our kids (and ourselves) feel more prepared can make a huge difference.

Transitioning from pediatric to adult health care isn’t something that happens overnight—it’s a gradual process that works best when it’s thoughtful and personalized. The good news is that there are some clear steps we can take to help make things go more smoothly, both for us and for our kids.

Here are some of the key parts of health care transition to keep in mind as you start planning:



Start Early — It’s never too early to start thinking ahead. Around age 12 or so, it helps to begin talking with your child about how they can take small steps to be more involved in their own health care. Things like knowing their medications, understanding their diagnosis, or learning how to speak up at appointments.



Set Some Goals — Every child is different, and so is every health care journey. Think about what your child will need to feel confident and supported as they grow up. Will they need help managing prescriptions? Do they know how to make their own appointments or ask for an interpreter? Setting small, realistic goals now can ease the stress later.



Find the Right Adult Providers — Not all adult doctors are used to working with Deaf or Hard of Hearing patients, especially those who are Deaf Plus. It’s important to take the time to find providers who understand your child’s needs and are willing to work with interpreters or other communication supports.



Build Independence (Little by Little) — As parents, it’s tough to let go—but helping our kids take the lead in their own care is one of the best things we can do. Practice letting them talk with the doctor first during appointments, or encourage them to keep track of their own health information. Start small and celebrate each step!



Plan for Insurance and Legal Stuff — Turning 18 often means changes in insurance, legal rights, and decision-making. Start looking into things like guardianship (if needed), power of attorney, or how your child can stay covered under insurance plans.



Keep it a Conversation — This isn’t a one-time talk; it’s an ongoing process. Check in regularly with your child to see how they’re feeling, what they understand, and what support they might need as they take on more responsibility.

Health Care Transition
Timeline for Youth and
Young Adults



Sample Transition
Readiness Assessment
for Youth



RESOURCES



www.gottransition.org

Questions to ask your
Doctor about Transitioning
to Adult Health Care



Setting up
your Smartphone
Medical ID



**FAIRMONT ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF****28th Annual Pig Roast****Saturday, July 12, 2025, 10:00 AM-8:00 PM****East Marion Park
Pavilion #1
Cole Street
Fairmont, WV 26554**

Cost: Adults \$20 - includes admission and 1 door prize ticket. Children (5 years through high school): \$5.00 for dinner. Bring a covered dish and receive an extra door prize ticket!

←←← Things to Do**Scan the QR Code to follow
the Fairmont Association on****WEST VIRGINIA HANDS & VOICES****Let's Go Fishing****Saturday, July 12, 2025, 10:00 AM****Castaway Paylake
2036 Hawver Road, Hico, WV 25854**

Whether it's your first time trying fishing or you're a seasoned pro, we'd love for your family to join us for a relaxing and fun day by the water! In addition to fishing, we'll have games and activities, so there's something for everyone.

If you have your own fishing gear, feel free to bring it! We'll also have some equipment available to share, but supplies are limited.

Ice Cream at the Park**Sunday, July 20, 2025, 2:00 pm****Veterans Memorial Park - Overlook Shelter
WV-98, Clarksburg, WV 26301**

Join us for a fun-filled afternoon of ice cream, connection, and community! Whether you're new or have been part of our circle for years, this is a great chance to meet other families, enjoy sweet treats, and soak up the summer sunshine.

Cool treats, games, and great company—all in one sweet summer afternoon!

**Scan the QR Code
to register****Scan the QR Code
to register****WEST VIRGINIA DEAF SERVICE CENTER (WVDSC)****ASL Summer Camp****August 4-7, 2025****160 Old Jacksons Mill Rd.
Weston, WV 26452**

Come join us for swimming, STEM, literacy, ASL activities, s'mores, and more!
FREE for deaf/hard-of-hearing children ages 8-13.

**Scan the QR Code
to register****BECKLEY ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF****Annual Picnic****Saturday, August 16, 2025, 11:00 am - 7:00 pm (Dinner at 3:00 pm)****Little Beaver State Park
1402 Grandview Rd
Beaver, WV 25813**

Cost: Free

Contact Jon or Robin at 304-513-2275 (VP) with any questions.

**CHARLESTON ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF****77th Annual Picnic****Saturday, August 23, 2025, 12:00 pm - dark****Hurricane City Park
Red Barn
3511 WV 34
Hurricane, WV 25526**

Burgers, Hot Dogs, Splash Pad, Door Prizes, Dingo, and Cornhole!

charlestonassociationdeafhoh@gmail.comCost of admission includes
your meal and a door prize ticket.Bring a covered dish
for an extra door prize ticket!

Adult \$25

Child 12-17 \$10

Under 5 FREE



**LANGUAGE FIRST****>>> Learning Opportunities <<<****Let's Dive Deeper: Autism and Diagnostic Decision Making in Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children****Tuesday, July 1, 2025, from 6:00 - 8:00 pm ET**

Autism Spectrum Disorder is a behaviorally defined disorder that includes consideration of symptoms that overlap with language and communication risk factors that may be heightened in DHH children. This presentation will provide information and guidance on working with DHH children with complex medical, developmental, and social histories that require a highly tailored intervention plan.

Workshop Fee: \$39 *This course offers 0.20 ASHA CEUs.

For additional information or to register go to

language1st.org/events**OR**

Scan the QR Code

**Advocacy and Identity: Supporting Families in Navigating the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Experience****Sunday, July 13, 2025, from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm ET**

This presentation explores how professionals can support families of Deaf and hard of hearing (DHH) children in navigating identity, communication choices, and advocacy. Participants will learn how to present communication options without bias, encourage informed decision making, and foster self-advocacy in children and caregivers.

Workshop Fee: \$39 *This course offers 0.20 ASHA CEUs.**WEST VIRGINIA COMMISSION FOR THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING (WVCDHH)**
Supplemental Security Income (SSI) & ABLÉ accounts**Thursday, July 24, 2025, 10:00-11:00 AM via Zoom**

Join us for a FREE monthly virtual workshop series presented by Kimberly Stephens, Social Security Public Affairs Specialist covering 27 SSA offices across West Virginia and Western Pennsylvania. With over 20 years of experience—including roles such as SSI Claims Specialist—Kimberly brings deep insight into Social Security programs and services. ASL interpretation and captioning provided.



Scan the QR Code to register

**WEST VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF****Opportunity for Interpreters to Earn 8 hours of CEUs!****Friday, August 8, 2025, and Saturday, August 9, 2025**

Canaan Valley Resorts, Davis, WV

Reserve your room using Group ID Code: 1057WK

Target Audience:

Educational Interpreters, Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors, Teachers of the Deaf, School Counselors, Administrators of Schools and Districts, and Parents or Guardians.

Educational Objectives:

1. Review, understand, and identify the key laws that impact Deaf students' rights.
2. Implement best practices to empower Deaf students while maintaining professional neutrality under WVDE policies and the NAD-RID Code of Professional Conduct.
3. Recognize systemic barriers to Deaf students' participation in educational decision-making.
4. Apply strategies to collaborate with educational teams while supporting student self-advocacy.
5. Ensure Deaf students actively engage in IEP and 504 meetings, transition planning, and vocational rehabilitation discussions.
6. Address student misconceptions about their rights in education and employment.
7. Analyze the effects of Power, Privilege, and Oppression (PPO) on language access and self-advocacy.

44th Biennial Conference *Canaan Valley Resort, Davis, West Virginia***August 7-10, 2025**

Canaan Valley Resorts, Davis, WV

TREASURE OF RESOURCES!

Come join us for a weekend full of resources, socialization, and fun!

- Friday and Saturday Night Socials
- Saturday Evening Entertainment By Keith Wann, ASL Comedian
- Saturday Lunch
- Workshops
- General Assembly
- Exhibits/Resources

Trainer Charity Reedy Warigon**Fee: \$75****(Includes Saturday Night meal)****Registration:****Email Chris Mick at****WVADPRESIDENT@GMAIL.COM**

For additional information or to register, go to

<https://www.wvad.org>**OR**

Scan the QR Code

