

Role of Hearing Itinerant Teacher

In order for deaf and hard of hearing children to reach their full potential, they require flexible programs that support the development of self-esteem, self-advocacy skills relating to hearing and communications, as well as communication, literacy, academic and social skills. It is the role of the Hearing Itinerant Teacher to support the children, their families, and those working with them to ensure development in these areas.

A student considered to be deaf or hard of hearing may present unique educational needs that might require direct or consultative services on a regular basis by a qualified teacher of the deaf and hard of hearing.

Lockport Area Special Education Cooperative provides a teacher of the deaf and hard of hearing for those students whose needs require the attention of a professional who is trained to recognize and attend to the needs of students whose educational experience is impacted by hearing loss. The teacher serves in an itinerant role (traveling from school to school), and provides direct or consultative services to schools, students, teachers and parents. The itinerant teacher may also act as a liaison between the audiologist and the regular school personnel. When required, students may be provided with an assistive listening device for the classroom, a teacher assistant, or sign language interpreter. This is determined by individual student needs, classroom conditions, and their means of communicating.

The responsibilities of the itinerant teacher are multi-faceted in nature. They may include class assessment, evaluation and individual work in the classroom, or in a separate setting. The itinerant teacher is part of the IEP team. To support the goals of the IEP the itinerant teacher may work with the student on:

- Support in the care, use and management of assistive listening devices
- The teaching of auditory skills, speech development, speech reading
- English language development
- Cognitive development
- Academic skill building strategies
- Social and/or emotional development
- Facilitate home-school communication
- Career and personal planning
- Coordinate the services of community professionals

The itinerant teacher is a resource to the classroom teacher, the interpreter, certified education assistants, families, liaison to the educational audiologist, and the student, ensuring that the working arrangement in the classroom is efficient and effective.