

# Essential Links

## Parent Links

### Terminology

**Continuum of alternative placements:** School districts must provide various settings in which to educate children with disabilities, including regular classes, special classes, and special schools. This variety of settings is referred to as the continuum of alternative placements.

**d/Deaf:** Spelled with a small “d,” the word “deaf” refers to the phenomenon of being audiolgically deaf. A child who is audiolgically deaf has a hearing loss so severe that the child cannot adequately process linguistic information through hearing, with or without amplification. Spelled with a capital “D,” the word “Deaf” refers to a specific linguistic and cultural identity, namely a person whose primary language is American Sign Language, and considers himself or herself part of the Deaf community. Members of the Deaf community share common identity, culture, and experiences.

**Hard of hearing:** As with “d/deaf,” there are two definitions for this term. Audiolgically speaking, a hard of hearing child has a hearing loss that does not rise to the level of deafness. Culturally speaking, there are persons who are audiolgically deaf who prefer to be thought of as “hard of hearing.” These individuals use speech and residual hearing for their primary means of communication.

**Hearing impaired:** Another term for “deaf” or “hard of hearing.” Generally, these latter terms are preferred.

**IDEA:** Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, the federal law that governs special education. State and local laws and regulations must be in compliance with IDEA.

**IEP:** Individualized Education Program, a written statement for each child with a disability age 3-21 that is developed, reviewed, and revised in accordance with specific sections of IDEA.

**IFSP:** Individualized Family Services Plan, a statement for a child age 0-3 served under IDEA and the child's family which is developed, reviewed, and revised in accordance with specific sections of IDEA.


**Parent/infant program:** A program offered by a local school district or a school for deaf children which provides learning opportunities for the child age 0-3 and parents. Parent infant programs may include home visit, center-based, and/or parent group components.

**Residual hearing:** The amount of usable hearing a deaf or hard of hearing person has.

**TTY:** Teletypewriter. A typing device which attaches to a phone line and allows callers to type conversations back and forth. It is sometimes known as a TDD, telecommunications device for the deaf, or TT, text telephone.

**TRS:** Telecommunications Relay Service, which facilitates communication between people who use TTYs and people who use the general telephone network. A TRS is equipped with specialized equipment and staffed by communications assistants who relay conversation between the two parties. Each state has a TRS.

###



Parent Links: Hope! Dream! Achieve! Is a program of the California Department of Education funded by a federal Maternal and Child Health Bureau grant.

The Parent Links name and materials are used with permission of the Coalition of Agencies Serving the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Inc.

*This information is public domain unless otherwise stated. Readers are encouraged to copy and share it, but please credit the Parent Links program and the source.*