Deaf Success in Fall 2020: Guide for High Schools

Educational and transition planning for deaf students requires a flexible, positive approach, now more than ever. NDC has answered many FAQs about how to find needed resources to support transition, what programs are available in different states, and how to meet legal obligations—even if students are not in the school building every day.

This guide has key strategies to support deaf success at your high school during Fall 2020 and beyond. Every link is to an NDC resource, tip sheet, or toolkit on that topic that can help.

KEY STRATEGIES

Plan for Transition

• Emphasize and assess self-determination skill development in your deaf students. Those skills have lifelong benefits in school, in the workplace, and in the community.
• Connect with vocational rehabilitation professionals in your area, tap into their resources, and learn about the options for pre-employment transition services.
• Share NDC’s #DeafSuccess video playlist to show the power of high expectations and the importance of the deaf experience.
• Encourage students to play Deafverse, a choose-your-own-adventure game created just for teenagers. This online game comes with student and teacher guides, home activity packs, and more.

Ensure Online Learning is Accessible

• If learning moves to remote settings, think about online strategies including using a variety of materials and providing accessible ways for students to learn and interact.
• Be flexible with accommodations. Remote interpreters and speech-to-text services may be needed for hybrid and online classrooms.
• Caption all of your videos and media, including podcasts or student projects.
• Support students in making the best use of technology and proactive strategies to stay in touch when learning goes remote.

Engage with Families

• Support strategies for strong communication at home between deaf youth and their family members.
• Keep students connected with each other and with deaf role models, after-school programming, and mentoring programs.
• Prepare students and families for postsecondary entrance exams and advocate for any needed accommodations and documentation.
• Encourage college readiness, starting remote college searches, and considering the student’s fit with the entire campus experience. Remember: Access is more than accommodations.

STAY CONNECTED WITH NDC

• COVID-19 Info and FAQs are regularly updated.
• NDC | Help Team is just a click away.
• Subscribe to keep current and connect with peers.

Strategy to Avoid

Do not rely on auto captions for your classroom materials. Their high error rate does not provide equal access.

DIG DEEPER

Learn more in NDC’s online learning library—free, self-paced courses on Test Equity, Work Based Learning, Summer Programs, and more.

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Links
1. nationaldeafcenter.org/topics/transition
2. nationaldeafcenter.org/defining-deaf
4. nationaldeafcenter.org/covid19faqs#transition
6. nationaldeafcenter.org/news/transition-life-skills-checklists-and-resources
8. youtube.com/watch?v=0g2yUQ2TSTE&feature=youtu.be
9. nationaldeafcenter.org/resource/self-advocacy-skills-and-transition-planning-deaf-students
11. nationaldeafcenter.org/topics/vrtoolkit
13. nationaldeafcenter.org/topics/pre-ets
14. youtube.com/watch?v=obD0PP4Rkk0&list=PLCXvz50QBXj5r1SQ_awjHPbl7bnCoj1
15. nationaldeafcenter.org/deafverse/about.html
17. nationaldeafcenter.org/news/checklist-teaching-deaf-students-online
18. nationaldeafcenter.org/news/remember-accessibility-rush-online-instruction-10-tips-educators
19. nationaldeafcenter.org/topics/remote-services
20. nationaldeafcenter.org/topics/captioned-media
21. nationaldeafcenter.org/news/take-control-your-online-learning-tips-deaf-college-students
22. nationaldeafcenter.org/news/seven-tips-improve-communication-your-deaf-teenager-during-covid-19
23. nationaldeafcenter.org/resource/role-models-facilitators-social-capital-deaf-individuals-research-synthesis
24. youtube.com/watch?v=ry0VoMhMheE
25. nationaldeafcenter.org/resource/supporting-deaf-youth-through-mentoring
26. nationaldeafcenter.org/resource/student-planning-guide-testing-and-accommodations
27. nationaldeafcenter.org/college-readiness
28. nationaldeafcenter.org/college-readiness
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32. nationaldeafcenter.org/newsletter-listserv-sign-up
33. nationaldeafcenter.org/learn

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