

HEARING IMPAIRED STUDENTS

What should I know about hearing impaired students?

Some people's hearing loss is present from birth while others' may be caused by injury, infection, or auditory trauma. No two students are alike, and each student's level of and experience with hearing impairment will be unique. Ask the classroom teacher what supports are in place in the classroom, and what you can do to make your lesson accessible to and enjoyable for ALL students. A student with a hearing impairment might:

- Use sign language to communicate
- Have an interpreter to facilitate communication
- Benefit when a speaker faces them and speaks clearly
- Understand speech by watching the speaker's mouth movements, facial expressions and gestures within context
- Wear assistive technology such as hearing aids, cochlear implants or FM systems
- Be a visual learner
- Prefer to sit closer to the front of the class
- Need questions or instructions repeated
- Use voice recognition software on computers or tablets to take notes
- Require closed-captioning for videos shown in the classroom

What is an FM or DM system and how do I use it?

Frequency modulated (FM) or digitally modulated (DM) hearing assistive technology transmits sound from a microphone directly to headphones or hearing aids. The speaker might wear the transmitter and microphone on a lanyard around their neck, or it might be passed around the classroom during a class discussion. The microphone works best when it is within six inches of the speaker's mouth. Watch this [video](#) from the West Virginia School for the Deaf on how to properly wear an FM transmitter and this [video](#) that discusses using an FM system in the classroom.



Hearing Impairment Myths



MYTH

Hearing loss is something that happens only to the elderly.
All hearing impaired students go to special schools.
Students who wear hearing aids in the classroom can hear everything just fine

FACT

14.9% of children aged 6 to 19 years old have some degree of hearing impairment.*
More than 88% of students with hearing impairment are educated in a typical class.**
Hearing aids improve hearing, but do not "cure" hearing loss. Hearing aids amplify sound, but don't improve the clarity of sound.

*Centers for Disease Control and Prevention **US Department of Education

More Resources to Explore:

[How to Help Students Who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing Succeed in School](#)
[Hearing Impairments Factsheet \(for Schools\)](#)
[Strategies for Hearing Impaired Students](#)