



**Kansas School for the Deaf**  
**450 East Park Street**  
**Olathe, KS 66061**  
**913-210-8149**  
**[www.ksdeaf.org](http://www.ksdeaf.org)**

- ◆ Campus-based program and Outreach services serving students who are deaf & hard of hearing, from Birth - 21 throughout the state of Kansas
- ◆ Importance of family and connection in early language acquisition and early literacy development
- ◆ Bilingual school supporting both American Sign Language (ASL) and English
- ◆ Least restrictive environment and direct communication opportunities between staff and peers
- ◆ No tuition to attend KSD and receive a free and appropriate public education
- ◆ Equitable access to education, language and culture

To ensure that all students we serve achieve their full potential in a language-rich environment

## KANSAS SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF



The Kansas School for the Deaf (KSD) was established in 1861 in Baldwin City, Kansas and moved to Olathe, Kansas in 1866 where it has operated to the present day. KSD provides a comprehensive education program utilizing both American Sign Language (ASL) and English for students who are deaf or hard of hearing (DHH). KSD is a fully accredited school by both the Kansas Department of Education (KSDE) and the Conference of Educational Administrators for Schools for the Deaf (CEASD), a national organization that specializes in deaf education. KSD operates both a campus-centered program and outreach services which serve children aged birth through 21 years old throughout the state of Kansas.

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

#### Is KSD considered a least restrictive environment (LRE)?

KSD is the least restrictive environment (LRE) where students receive full language access in ASL and English. A full array of related services is available including ASL support, speech/language therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, counseling, health care, and dormitory services. Each IEP for students who are DHH must address the communication and linguistic needs of the child; their academic level and their social, emotional, and cultural needs including

opportunities for direct communication/interaction with adults and peers. A full range of placements as described in 34 CFR 300.551(a) and (b)(1) of the IDEA regulations must be available.

#### Why go to KSD when interpreters are in the public school?

Direct instruction is best. Interpreters are state-licensed professionals who are experts in interpreting, not teaching. On days when the interpreter is absent, the student has no access to learning, language, or social opportunities. At KSD, licensed teachers provide instruction *directly* to the students, not through an interpreter.



#### Are there children who talk at KSD?

Students at KSD have a variety of hearing levels and speech abilities. Currently, a majority of our student population utilize hearing aids and/or cochlear implants. Some students and families opt not to utilize these devices. Students are empowered to choose to ASL and/or spoken English depending on their comfort level and with whom they are interacting.

#### What is the cost for a student to attend KSD?

There is no tuition for Kansas students to attend KSD. KSD is a state agency that provides *free and appropriate public education*. Parents are responsible for typical items just as would be expected at their local school. The local school district is responsible for

providing transportation to and from school on a daily or weekly basis, depending on the student's IEP. The district can claim partial reimbursement for this expense.

### **How are students enrolled at KSD?**

Requests for admission can be made by parents or the local school district. A parent cannot directly enroll their child at KSD without involving the local school district. Once initial paperwork is reviewed, including an audiogram to verify the student is DHH, an observation is conducted in the student's current placement. An IEP meeting consisting of the parents, KSD staff, and the local school district will discuss the student's needs and where those needs can best be met. Once placement at KSD is decided, the student may begin attending KSD as soon as possible.

### **How can students attend KSD when they live so far away?**

KSD has both "day" and "dorm" students. Day students go home at the end of each school day; however, they may participate in after school activities. Special arrangements can be made in advance for day students to stay after school for special activities. Dorm students (5 years old and older) live on campus when they cannot live at home due to distance. Dormitory staff is on duty throughout the evening and overnight hours to supervise and care for students. Most students will generally travel home on Fridays and return to KSD on Sundays (refer to the annual school calendar for exact dates).

### **Can I tour KSD?**

Tours for families and potential students should be arranged through the Outreach Department by calling (913) 210-8149 or [kdsdoutreach@kssdb.org](mailto:kdsdoutreach@kssdb.org).

## **CAMPUS PROGRAM**

KSD serves as a center-based educational option to provide a free and appropriate public

education in the least restrictive environment (i.e., the most accessible environment) to students who are DHH throughout Kansas. Language is the basis for all learning and social/emotional development. It also leads directly to literacy. This is true for students and youth who are DHH. The earlier a student who is DHH has daily access to a visual language like ASL, the more effectively and efficiently the student will develop linguistic and literacy skills within his/her educational experience. KSD is committed to the education of students who are DHH. The school must maintain compliance with all state standards, assessments, and performance standards just like any other public school in Kansas.



The *Early Childhood Program* consists of early childhood education for students who are 3-5 years old. This program provides every child the opportunity to develop age-appropriate cognitive, communication, language and social skills.

The *Elementary Program* offers a comprehensive K-6 instruction for elementary-aged students, which has been designed to meet the varying educational needs of DHH students. The elementary students develop important academic and social-emotional skills as they learn through direct instruction and engage in cooperative and independent learning experiences.

The *Secondary Programs* comprise the seventh through the twelfth grades and, for students who are eligible, a post high school program, Kansas Student Transition and Academic Readiness, (KSTAR) to age 21. These programs are designed to meet each

student's varying educational needs as well as postsecondary planning (Transition Program) including preparation for employment, advanced education and/or skill training, and independent living skills.



The ***Student Life Program*** at KSD offers a wide variety of opportunities for students who live too far from KSD to attend as a traditional day student. Students have a variety of opportunities to build world knowledge and develop leadership skills, athletic interests, and social skills through their involvement in organizations and athletic teams. Students are provided transportation through their school district to have weekends at home (see school calendar for details).

KSD provides the ***IEP mandated special education and related services*** to students in the areas of audiology, speech/language therapy, counseling, social work, occupational therapy, physical therapy, and student health services. Students with more unique needs, or multiple disabilities, are provided additional services as determined by their IEPs. All related services are evaluated on a regular basis in compliance with the IEP process and special education regulations.

KSD offers ***extracurricular activities/after school programs*** for all of our students. KSD is a member of the Kansas State High School Activities Association (KSHSAA) approved school list. The KSHSAA establishes rules and guidelines for athletic participation. KSD is also a member of the Great Plains School for the Deaf Conference.

Extracurricular activities are student body council, football, volleyball, cheerleading, basketball, special olympics, track and field, academic bowl, ASL bowl, oratorical competition, Robotics, Math Bowl, Battle of the Books, job olympics, parks and recreational activities for youths, and many more.

KSD offers a three-week ***Extended School Year (ESY) Program*** for students who are DHH. ESY helps reinforce important skills, maintain performance, minimize regression, and better prepare them for the following school year. Students' learning will focus on both core academic subjects as well as special coursework related to a selected theme. Field trips are a vital part of the ESY experience.

## STATEWIDE OUTREACH SERVICES

***PATHS Parent Support Group (Ages 0-21)*** is supported by KSD and hosts events for families throughout the State. Events are open for any family with a child who is DHH. There is also a program Supporting You! where parents can be connected with other families that have walked that journey in order to be a support.



Sound START (*Ages 0 – 3*) is our birth to three early intervention program. We collaborate with SoundBeginnings, the program responsible for the newborn hearing screening, and Kansas Early Childhood Development Services to identify and support families of

infants/toddlers who are deaf/hard of hearing. Sound START partners with Early Childhood Developmental Services throughout the State to provide services specific to hearing loss and language acquisition.

### **Language Assessment Program (LAP)**

**(Ages 0 – 8)** is a state-mandated program that conducts language assessments for children ages birth through eight to track achievement of language milestones in American Sign Language (ASL) and/or English. Results are presented to the state legislature annually. KSD is responsible for conducting the assessments and tracking the data.

### **Deaf Mentor Program (Ages 0 – 3)**

supports families in learning American Sign Language as well as helps them learn about Deaf Culture. A deaf adult trained in the Deaf Mentor Curriculum conducts home visits, and their role is to interact with and support the whole family in using ASL, guide family members into understanding and appreciating Deaf Culture, and serve as a connection for families to participate in the Deaf Community.

**Family Signs Kansas (FSK) (Ages 0-21)** is an opportunity for families throughout the State to receive individualized ASL classes. Families can select a time that is most convenient for them. They are matched with a teacher who will conduct the lessons via video conferencing.



### **Hearing Assistive Technologies (HAT)**

**(Ages 3+)** is facilitated by our audiologist. Audiologists are uniquely trained and licensed to assess and work with amplification; Kansas

has only approximately 30 audiologists working in schools; this program supports districts without that expertise. KSD leases listening devices to schools throughout the State as well as provides trouble-shooting and repair work as needed. Thus, districts benefit not only by having access to audiology expertise but also up to date technology as district student numbers and needs can vary from year to year.

**Consultations/Observations (Ages 3+)** is a way that members of the multidisciplinary Outreach Team can provide support to students throughout the State. A records review is conducted that includes reviewing background information from the school team and parents. Select members of the team go on-site to conduct an observation with follow up discussions. At the end of the day, a brief meeting takes place with the KSD Outreach Team, local school team, and parents to discuss tips, strategies, and recommendations for the team. Ongoing coaching support can be provided.



**ASL Live! Storytime** provides students who are deaf/hard of hearing, ages 3 through 6<sup>th</sup> grade, and their classmates in a local education program to receive weekly ASL classes and storytime. KSD collaborates with the local teacher to ensure that vocabulary and books utilized match what is taking place in the classroom whenever possible.



Leading Deaf Education in the 21st Century