

MEMORANDUM

To: Special Education Directors and Staff

From: Nancy Holsapple, Director of Special Education

Date: June 28, 2019

Re: House Enrolled Act 1484 –
Language Development for Children Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing

Background:

House Enrolled Act (HEA) 1484 focuses on language development for children who are deaf or hard of hearing (DHH) and who are less than 11 years of age. The law will go into effect on July 1, 2019 and can be found in the Indiana Code under IC 20-35-12.

Guidance:

The Director of the Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Education (CDHHE) shall appoint an advisory committee tasked with advising and assisting the CDHHE in developing language milestones for a parent resource, approving tools and assessments for the assessment of DHH children, and developing and preparing a parent resource.

No later than March 20, 2020, CDHHE shall establish a list of language developmental milestones and provide to the advisory committee those milestones.

The advisory committee shall review the language milestones and collaborate with experts, for recommendations to the CDHHE, on: selecting the milestones for inclusion in the parent resource; and approving tools and assessments for children who are DHH that are equivalent to tools and assessments for non-DHH children. **No later than June 1, 2020**, the advisory committee shall provide to the CDHHE the recommended list of milestones and tools and assessments.

The CDHHE shall review the advisory committee's recommendations and select language milestones to include in the parent resource. **No later than July 1, 2020**, CDHHE shall inform the committee of the selected milestones and approve applicable tools and assessments. CDHHE shall also prepare the parent resource. **Beginning July 1, 2020**, CDHHE may, upon request, provide training and technical assistance to Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA), school corporations, and service providers, concerning the use and administration of the approved tools and assessments. As applicable, the training must include best practices on the appropriate use of amplification devices and visual supports during assessments.

Upon CDHHE approving the assessments recommended by the advisory committee, each school corporation **may** administer annually to a child that is DHH, who is at least three years of age and less than 11 years of age and has legal settlement in the school corporation, at least one of the assessments approved by CDHHE (FSSA may administer to children less than three years of age). A parent is allowed to opt out of the annual assessment if the parent provides, in writing, to FSSA or school corporation the parent's

intent to opt out. FSSA and each school corporation are **required** to provide, upon written parental consent, to CDHHE the results of any tools and assessments administered to a child that is DHH.

The advisory committee must conduct, at least once every five years, a review of the language developmental milestones selected and tools and assessments approved by CDHHE.

If you have any questions, please contact Patrick Rhodes at 317-232-7537 or e-mail at prhodes@doe.in.gov or the Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Education at cdhhe@isdh.in.gov.

This bill was authored by Representative Ed Clere. The full bill text can be found [here](#). Information regarding how to contact your legislators can be found [here](#).