

HARRISBURG BI-LINGUAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

REFERRAL FOR PLACEMENT

South Dakota School for the Deaf (SDSD), through a contractual agreement with the Harrisburg School District, offers an educational program for students who are deaf and hard of hearing from pre-kindergarten through high school using a bi-lingual approach with American Sign Language.

REFERRAL PROCESS

It is highly recommended that prior to considering placement, the local school district make arrangements with the Director of Special Education at Harrisburg to arrange a tour. An outreach consultant from the SDSD will be available to help explain the program and its philosophy.

If the team determines that the student needs an educational program designed to deliver instruction using a bi-lingual approach, they must submit a written request for placement to the Superintendent of South Dakota School for the Deaf at 2001 E. 8th St., Sioux Falls, SD 57103-1896.

To provide the Admissions Committee with sufficient background material to make an informed decision about the student's placement, the following information will be needed:

1. Referral letter from District Superintendent or designee
2. Current Individual Educational Plan (IEP) or Individual Family Services Plan (IFSP)
3. Audiological Evaluations (most recent and historical reports)
4. Pertinent medical history
5. Most recent annual evaluations, academic and other pertinent information, including behavior concerns
6. Most recent three-year multidisciplinary evaluation
7. Most recent year of report card/progress reports if applicable

TIMELINES

Upon receipt of the referral for placement letter, the Superintendent of SDSD will convene an Admissions Committee. The Admissions Committee will normally include the Harrisburg Director of Special Education, an SDSD outreach consultant, an SDSD administrator, and other staff as appropriate. The Admissions Committee will make one of the following recommendations to the SDSD Superintendent.

1. Request for additional information
2. Recommendation for placement
3. Recommendation to deny placement

Once the Superintendent receives the formal recommendation from the Admissions Committee, the district and family will be informed of the decision within two weeks.

ADMISSION

Once a student is accepted, the following information is needed:

1. Family member pictures and sign names
2. Copies of the child's birth certificate and immunization record

