



WEST CENTRAL EDUCATION DISTRICT

Educational Audiology Guidance

Background: This information is intended to help clarify when to involve the educational audiologist in student evaluations and ongoing services. The goal is to ensure consistent procedures across districts and appropriate support for students when hearing concerns arise.

For students being evaluated for special education services

If a student is undergoing a special education evaluation and there are hearing concerns—or the student did not pass or could not participate in a hearing screening with the school nurse—an audiology evaluation should be included in the evaluation plan. Results from that evaluation can be added to the comprehensive evaluation report to help the team understand how hearing may impact learning.

For students who already receive special education services

If the team knows a student needs a hearing evaluation by the educational audiologist (rather than a screening by the nurse), this should be documented in the IEP. Please allow students to be screened by the nurse prior to adding audiology to the student's IEP. The audiology service should be listed on the service grid, there should be a statement about the need for this service in the Least Restrictive Environment section, and the need for continued services should be reviewed at the annual IEP meeting. If it's not currently included, the IEP should be amended to reflect the need for this service. Please reach out to the Educational Audiologist prior to these services being added to the IEP.

For students not currently receiving or being evaluated for special education services

Districts should follow their standard hearing screening procedures for these students. It is not expected that WCED's educational audiologist will conduct the screening or evaluation.

However, if there are significant concerns—such as repeated screening failures, noticeable hearing difficulties in the classroom, or families not following up on recommendations—staff should reach out to the educational audiologist or the special education supervisor to discuss next steps.

For students transitioning from Part C to Part B (Birth–2)

When children transition from Part C - Early Intervention to Part B - Preschool Special Education, an otoacoustic emission (OAE) screening should be completed as part of the transition evaluation. If the child passes the screening and there are no additional concerns or risk factors for hearing loss, no further testing is required. If the child does not pass the screening, has a known hearing loss, or presents with risk factors for delayed-onset or progressive hearing loss, audiology services should be included in the IEP to ensure appropriate monitoring and support; the Educational Audiologist can support determining the need for further testing. If a recent OAE screening (within the past six months) was not completed during the transition process, reach out to the educational audiologist to discuss next steps.