

Effective Communication for Students with Hearing, Vision, and/or Speech Disabilities in Public Schools

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA—Title II), and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, each address the obligation of public schools to meet the communication needs of students with disabilities. Please contact your child’s Individualized Education Program (IEP) team members or the Section 504 Accommodation Plan (504) team members to discuss the communication needs of your child who may have a hearing, vision, and/or speech disability. Apply both the IDEA analysis and the Title II effective communication analysis in determining how to meet your child’s unique needs.

NOTE: Title II of ADA and Section 504 also apply to individuals with disabilities who are not students. Therefore, if you are one of your family members need to seek information, or access to, the services, programs and activities of the public school, please contact the school site 72 hours prior to the event or program in order to make certain the appropriate or effective communication needs are met (e.g., Obtain an interpreter for individuals who are deaf).

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