

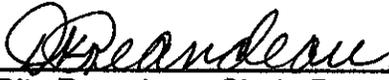
Washington State Center for Childhood Deafness & Hearing Loss

POLICY: 3000

Adopted: **September 9, 2004**
Revised: **October 1, 2010**

SUBJECT: **Admissions/Enrollment for new and former students**

Approved by: _____


Rita Reandeau, Chair, Board of Trustees

PURPOSE: To describe the admission/enrollment policy for the Washington School for the Deaf (WSD) academic program and, if appropriate, residential services of WSD.

WSD's academic program shall be free to residents of the state between the ages of three (3) and twenty-one (21) years who are deaf, hard of hearing, deaf blind, or have other disabilities where a hearing impairment is the major need for services. Students reaching their 21st birthday during the academic year may remain for the duration of the school year.

Basis for Referral for Admission

A parent, guardian, surrogate parent, emancipated minor, adult student or local education agency (LEA) may refer a student for admission to WSD. WSD will assess the appropriateness of admission to WSD by first considering the student for evaluation in a diagnostic placement. Applications for admission shall include the reason(s) for referral. Reasons for referral may include, but are not limited to, a need for:

1. Services specific to deaf and hard of hearing students, which are not readily available in the local school district;
2. More intensive language development within an ASL English bilingual environment;
3. Greater array of related and support services;
4. Social skill development and opportunities for interaction with peers and adult role models;
5. Transition planning and experiences to support post-secondary outcomes.

Residential program services may be available to students requesting diagnostic placement, admission or readmission, *Provided that:*

1. The student is accepted into the WSD academic program for diagnostic purposes, admission or readmission,
2. The residential program has space available and can provide the needed services,
3. A one-way commute by school bus is greater than 60 minutes;

4. Residential programming is otherwise required to provide the student a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) pursuant to the current individualized educational program (IEP); and
5. The student is able to finger-feed, chew and swallow most foods, indicate need for help when self-soiled or wet, and assist in self-dressing and bathing.

Basis for Denial of Admission

Adequate Facilities and Resources

WSD may not admit a student for diagnostic placement and shall not enroll, reenroll or retain a student permanently if WSD cannot offer or provide the level of care, supervision, educational program, training, or transportation necessary to meet the unique needs of a student; or if classroom space, beds or staffing required by the Department of Social and Health Services is not available.

If a student is denied admission, WSD may consider an inter-agency agreement with the local school district whereby the district may agree to provide the additional, necessary resources to support their student's educational placement at WSD. Such agreement may be terminated by either party, at which point the student will return to a district placement. WSD does not assume IDEA responsibilities for students served through an inter-agency agreement.

WSD does not constitute a potential Stay Put placement for students who are admitted for a diagnostic placement or attending WSD pursuant to an inter-agency agreement.

Safety Risk Factors

WSD shall not admit, enroll, reenroll or retain a student who is an adjudicated sex offender classified as risk level III pursuant to RCW 72.40.040(3), and may refuse to admit, enroll, reenroll or retain a student who is an adjudicated level I or level II sex offender. WSD will not admit, enroll, reenroll or retain students who have sexually victimized a student(s) currently admitted or enrolled at WSD.

Children who pose a safety risk to self or others cannot be admitted, enrolled, reenrolled or retained at WSD unless an individualized safety plan can be implemented with existing WSD resources. Admission, enrollment or reenrollment of a student at WSD will be denied if the student presents a safety risk that cannot be effectively mitigated through a safety plan, utilizing existing WSD resources.

Conditions under which WSD resources would not be able to ensure the safety of the student and others may include but are not limited to:

1. The student is an adjudicated sexual offender;
2. The student has been adjudicated for a violent offense;
3. The student has otherwise been deemed a sexually aggressive youth;
4. The student's needs must be addressed in a hospital setting or a residential treatment facility;
5. The student's primary ongoing needs are related to severe emotional, behavioral, or mental disorders;
6. The student has a documented history of severe behaviors in a prior school, educational or institutional setting; and/or
7. The student requires continuous one-to-one adult supervision to protect himself/herself and/or others from harm.

Admission for Diagnostic Placement

The diagnostic placement at WSD is an evaluation, not an educational placement. The purpose of the diagnostic placement is to obtain necessary information about the student, to determine if the student's educational needs may be appropriately met at WSD and, when applicable, to determine if a safety plan can effectively mitigate any perceived risk to the student or others.

A diagnostic placement will not exceed 45 school days.

The LEA is responsible for ensuring the student's IEP and three-year evaluation report are valid through the end of the diagnostic placement. The LEA remains responsible for the provision of FAPE and continues to report and claim the student for funding purposes throughout the evaluation period. WSD does not assume responsibility for students under IDEA during diagnostic placement.

WSD shall not constitute a potential Stay Put placement for students admitted for a diagnostic placement who are denied enrollment to WSD.

Enrollment Decision

Prior to the conclusion of the diagnostic placement, the Admissions team will meet to determine if the student should be enrolled in WSD, as the least restrictive environment (LRE). Upon enrollment, WSD assumes responsibility for the student's IEP and FAPE. Students who are accepted for enrollment as day students, and who later move outside the transportation boundaries, must be re-evaluated to determine if they qualify for residential services.