

Deaf Success in Fall 2020: Guide for High Schools

Educational and **transition**¹ planning for **deaf**² students requires a **flexible, positive approach**³, now more than ever. NDC has answered **many FAQs**⁴ about how to find **needed resources**⁵ to support transition, what programs are **available in different states**⁶, and how to meet legal obligations—even if students are not in the school building every day.

This guide has key strategies to support deaf success at your high school during Fall 2020 and beyond. Every link is to an NDC resource, tip sheet, or toolkit on that topic that can help.

KEY STRATEGIES

Plan for Transition



- Emphasize and assess **self-determination skill**⁷ development in your deaf students. Those skills have **lifelong benefits**⁸ in **school**⁹, **in the workplace**¹⁰, and in the community.
- Connect with **vocational rehabilitation professionals**¹¹ in your area, tap into their **resources**¹², and learn about the options for **pre-employment transition services**¹³.
- Share NDC's #DeafSuccess **video playlist**¹⁴ to show the power of high expectations and the importance of the deaf experience.
- Encourage students to play **Deafverse**¹⁵, a choose-your-own-adventure game created just for teenagers. This online game comes with student and teacher guides, **home activity packs**¹⁶, and more.

STAY CONNECTED WITH NDC

- **COVID-19 Info**²⁹ and **FAQs**³⁰ are regularly updated.
- **NDC | Help Team**³¹ is just a click away.
- **Subscribe**³² to keep current and connect with peers.

Ensure Online Learning is Accessible



- If learning moves to remote settings, think about **online**¹⁷ strategies including using a variety of materials and providing **accessible ways**¹⁸ for students to learn and interact.
- Be flexible with accommodations. **Remote interpreters and speech-to-text services**¹⁹ may be needed for hybrid and online classrooms.
- **Caption all of your videos and media**²⁰, including podcasts or student projects.
- Support students in **making the best use of technology**²¹ and proactive strategies to stay in touch when learning goes remote.

Strategy to Avoid

Do not rely on auto captions for your classroom materials. Their high error rate does not provide equal access.

Engage with Families



- Support strategies for **strong communication**²² at home between deaf youth and their family members.
- Keep students connected with each other and with **deaf**²³ role models, **after-school programming**²⁴, and **mentoring programs**²⁵.
- Prepare **students and families for postsecondary entrance exams**²⁶ and advocate for any needed accommodations and documentation.
- Encourage **college readiness**²⁷, starting remote college searches, and considering the student's fit with the entire campus experience. Remember: **Access is more than accommodations**²⁸.

DIG DEEPER

Learn more in NDC's **online learning library**³³—free, self-paced courses on Test Equity, Work Based Learning, Summer Programs, and more.

Links

1. nationaldeafcenter.org/topics/transition
2. nationaldeafcenter.org/defining-deaf
3. nationaldeafcenter.org/news/raising-bar-postsecondary-success-cawthon-presents-keynote-transition-design-life
4. nationaldeafcenter.org/covid19faqs#transition
5. nationaldeafcenter.org/news/8-essential-resources-vr-success-deaf-youth-during-covid-19
6. nationaldeafcenter.org/news/transitionlife-skills-checklists-and-resources
7. nationaldeafcenter.org/news/decide-act-believe-how-assess-and-empower-self-determination-deaf-youth
8. youtube.com/watch?v=0g2yUQ2TSTE&feature=youtu.be
9. nationaldeafcenter.org/resource/self-advocacy-skills-and-transition-planning-deaf-students
10. nationaldeafcenter.org/news/deaf-work-during-pandemic-making-gains-flexibility-optimism-and-resilience
11. nationaldeafcenter.org/topics/vrtoolkit
12. nationaldeafcenter.org/news/8-essential-resources-vr-success-deaf-youth-during-covid-19
13. nationaldeafcenter.org/topics/pre-ets
14. youtube.com/watch?v=obD0PP4Rkk0&list=PLCXvz50QBXj5rLr1SQ_ajwHPbl7bnCoj1
15. nationaldeafcenter.org/deafverse/about.html
16. nationaldeafcenter.org/news/deafverse-can-help-deaf-teens-connect-and-learn-home
17. nationaldeafcenter.org/news/checklist-teaching-deaf-students-online
18. nationaldeafcenter.org/news/remember-accessibility-rush-online-instruction-10-tips-educators
19. nationaldeafcenter.org/topics/remote-services
20. nationaldeafcenter.org/topics/captioned-media
21. nationaldeafcenter.org/news/take-control-your-online-learning-tips-deaf-college-students
22. nationaldeafcenter.org/news/seven-tips-improve-communication-your-deaf-teenager-during-covid-19
23. nationaldeafcenter.org/resource/role-models-facilitators-social-capital-deaf-individuals-research-synthesis
24. youtube.com/watch?v=ryOvOfIMheE
25. nationaldeafcenter.org/resource/supporting-deaf-youth-through-mentoring
26. nationaldeafcenter.org/resource/student-planning-guide-testing-and-accommodations
27. nationaldeafcenter.org/college-readiness
28. nationaldeafcenter.org/college-readiness
29. nationaldeafcenter.org/covid-19-information
30. nationaldeafcenter.org/covid19faqs
31. nationaldeafcenter.org/get-help
32. nationaldeafcenter.org/newsletter-listserv-sign-up
33. nationaldeafcenter.org/learn