



## **Resources and Informational Websites to Assist Students who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing in Achieving Positive Postsecondary Outcomes**

### [Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing \(AG Bell\)](#)

Working globally to ensure that people who are deaf and hard of hearing can hear and talk. This organization wants all families to be informed and supported, professionals to be appropriately qualified to teach and help children with hearing loss, public policy leaders to effectively address the needs of people with hearing loss, and communities to be empowered to help their neighbors with hearing loss succeed. Specific to transition, its LOFT Program (Leadership Opportunities for Teens) focuses on self-advocacy, self-confidence, leadership, and communication. (Under "Connect" on website.)

### [American Speech-Language-Hearing Association \(ASHA\)](#)

Making effective communication, a human right, accessible and achievable for all. Information about health insurance and finding a professional.

### [Cochlear Implant University \(CIU\)](#)

Resources for high school and college students with cochlear implants transitioning from high school to college. (May be used for those with hearing aids.)

### [Community-Based Instruction \(CBI\)](#)

Community-Based Instruction is an evidence-based practice that involves the use of sustained and repeated instructional activities that take place in various natural community environments outside of the school building in order to facilitate skill development and generalization in employment, community activities (e.g. shopping, banking, post office use) and recreation while addressing the New Jersey Student Learning Standards. In partnership with the NJ Department of Education, Office of Special Education, the Boggs Center at Rutgers provides training and on-site technical assistance on the topic of CBI for participating NJ school districts.

### [Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing \(DDHH\)](#)

The mission of the NJ Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DDHH) is to provide education, advocacy and direct services to eliminate barriers and promote increased accessibility to programs, services, and information routinely available to the state's general population. If you are a deaf or hard of hearing person and are experiencing barriers to services and programs, DDHH has a deaf language advocacy program, staffed by deaf and hard of hearing specialists, that can advocate for you in a variety of ways. Information is routinely available to the state's general population.



### [Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing \(DDHH\) - Sign Language and Caption Services](#)

The lists are provided as a resource to the community to direct consumers to interpreters who are certified by the Registry of Interpreters of the Deaf. Consumers may wish to secure their own interpreters directly from the list or request that the DDHH coordinate the interpreter services. (DDHH does not endorse any specific interpreter.)

### [Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services \(DVRS\)](#)

The mission of the New Jersey Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services is to enable eligible individuals with disabilities to achieve an employment outcome consistent with their strengths, priorities, needs, abilities and capabilities.

### [Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services \(DVRS\) - Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services](#)

DVRS provides specialized services to consumers who are deaf and hard of hearing. It employs Deaf Language Specialists, also known as Rehabilitation Counselors for the Deaf, to cover all 21 counties who provide direct vocational counseling to DVRS consumers whose primary language is American Sign Language (ASL). DVRS contracts with supported employment agencies who have staff proficient in ASL to assist the consumer with job readiness skills, job placement, job coaching and long-term follow-along services, if needed. In addition, DVRS funds three Regional Centers for People with Hearing Loss who serve individuals who are Deaf, hard of hearing, late deafened, or have cochlear implants. These centers offer vocational assessments, job readiness skills, job search support, job coaching, and pre-employment transition services for students aged 14 and up in school, and out of school youth. Each center houses a demonstration center with various assistive technology that may assist an individual at their place of employment.

### [Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services \(DVRS\) - Students with Disabilities](#)

The New Jersey Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services assists students with disabilities who need services to prepare for, get, and keep a job. DVRS can provide Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) for students with disabilities between the ages of 14-21. Pre-ETS consists of the following:

1. Job exploration counseling
2. Work-based learning experiences that may include in-school or after school opportunities or experiences in competitive integrated employment environments in the community
3. Counseling about opportunities for enrollment in comprehensive transition or postsecondary educational programs at institutions of higher education
4. Workplace readiness training to develop social skills and independent living skills
5. Instruction in self-advocacy

You can initiate the process to receive Pre-ETS by completing and submitting this [referral form](#) to your [local DVRS office](#).



In addition to receiving Pre-ETS, students with disabilities can [apply for eligibility](#) with DVRS to receive traditional rehabilitation services such as job coaching, assistive technology evaluations, and interpreting services.

DVRS' ultimate goal is to create a smooth transition from school to work so that upon graduation, a student is prepared to begin work or postsecondary training that leads to employment.

### [Getting a Job](#)

This online training was developed and designed for students who are deaf or hard of hearing and the professionals who work with them. Focusing on the transition from school to work, the training offers a series of activities, supporting documents and topical videos designed to help the job seeker prepare for the world of work.

### [Hands and Voices Post-Secondary Transition On-Line Module for Parents and Their Teens](#)

Hands and Voices is a non-profit, parent-driven organization dedicated to supporting families of children who are deaf or hard of hearing. Hands and Voices is non-biased about communication methodologies and believes that families can make the best choices for their child if they have access to good information and support.

### [Hearing Loss Association of America \(HLAA\)](#)

The "nation's leading organization representing consumers with hearing loss". HLAA strives to give people the tools they need to live more successfully with hearing loss and to show them they do not have to face hearing loss alone.

### [Listen Foundation](#)

Provides for and assists children who are deaf and hard of hearing and their families with access to a proven speech, language, and listening therapy method to help them achieve a life of independence. Everyone is welcome, whether they're new parents looking for advice about what to expect, or experienced families and caregivers who want to offer practical tips.

### [Map It: What Comes Next?](#)

A free, online, interactive training designed for transition-aged students who are deaf or hard of hearing.

### [National Association of State Directors of Special Education 2018 \(NASDSE\)](#)

*Optimizing Outcomes for Students who are Deaf of Hard of Hearing: Educational Service Guidelines*,  
Alexandria, Virginia: NASDSE



### [National Deaf Center on Postsecondary Outcomes, Transition \(NDC\)](#)

This website provides a variety of resources to assist students who are deaf or hard of hearing to successfully transition into adulthood.

### [National Deaf Center: Deafverse](#)

Deafverse is a choose-your-own-adventure game designed for deaf teenagers created by the National Deaf Center. Deafverse provides students with a fun digital experience that builds their confidence, teaches them their rights, and helps them develop essential self-determination skills to succeed in their transition from high school to adult life.

### [National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders \(NIDCD\)](#)

Part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), this organization conducts and supports research in the normal and disordered processes of hearing, balance, taste, smell, voice, speech, and language.

### [National Technical Assistance Center on Transition \(NTACT\)](#)

NTACT's purpose is to assist State Education Agencies, Local Education Agencies, State VR agencies, and VR service providers in implementing evidence-based and promising practices ensuring students with disabilities, including those with significant disabilities, graduate prepared for success in postsecondary education and employment.

### [New Jersey Department of Education Transition from School to Adult Life Resources](#)

The resources on this site are intended to assist schools, families, students, and others in understanding what to do for successful transition to happen, and how to do it.

### [New Jersey Programs and Resources for Students who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or DeafBlind](#)

Resources for parents, professionals, educational interpreters, programs, New Jersey resources, and general information for students who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or DeafBlind.

### [O\\*NET OnLine](#)

O\*NET OnLine has detailed descriptions of the world of work for use by job seekers, workforce development and HR professionals, students, researchers, and more!

### [Person-Centered Planning Approaches in Schools and Transition \(PCAST\)](#)

The New Jersey Department of Education, Office of Special Education, in partnership with The Boggs Center at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, provides coaching and other professional learning opportunities to students, family members, and school district staff that are aimed at promoting



effective supports for students through the use of person-centered approaches. These approaches are applicable to students of all ages and developmental levels.

[U.S. Department of Education \(Department\), Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services](#)

A Transition Guide to Postsecondary Education and Employment for Students and Youth with Disabilities.

[Workforce Innovation Technical Assistance Center \(WINTAC\)](#)

The WINTAC is a national center funded by the Rehabilitation Services Administration to provide technical assistance to State Vocational Rehabilitation Agencies and related rehabilitation professionals to help them develop the skills and processes needed to meet the requirements of the Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act.

### **Supported Employment Agencies**

The following Supported Employment agencies have employment specialists who are fluent in American Sign Language to provide job placement and job coaching services for individuals who are deaf and hard of hearing. All individuals interested in these services must first [apply for eligibility](#) with the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (DVRS). Pre-ETS services are offered only through Easterseals NJ and Alternatives CDC.

[APL Associates](#)

APL Associates is focused on one goal: to help clients secure and maintain long term employment. Their team of coaches work one-on-one with clients to identify, apply for and secure compelling employment opportunities. With a comprehensive, long-term approach, our coaches continue to offer on-the-job coaching and long-term support.

[Alternatives-Career Development Center \(CDC\)](#)

The Alternatives subsidiary, Bridges to Employment, operates a Career Development Center for people who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing. The Career Development Center offers a wide range of evaluation, employment training, job coaching, placement and support services as well as, support groups, seminars and workshops related to employment. The Career Development Center also houses a Demonstration Center for Assistive Technology. Services are available to residents of Somerset, Hunterdon, Middlesex, Mercer, Monmouth and Ocean Counties.

[Easterseals NJ-Career Pathway Connections \(CPC\)](#)

Career Pathways Connections for the deaf and hard of hearing provides opportunities for individuals with hearing loss to enter the workforce and obtain sustainable employment. This program is run by staff that are proficient in American Sign Language, experienced in identifying workplace



accommodations, trained in assistive technologies, and knowledgeable in resources for the deaf and hard of hearing. They offer Pre-Employment Transition Services, Vocational Assessments, Job Readiness Training, Job Placement, Job Coaching and Assistive Technology Demonstrations. Serving: Sussex, Passaic, Bergen, Warren, Morris, Essex, Hudson, Burlington, Camden, Gloucester, Salem, Atlantic, Cumberland, Cape May Counties.

### [Employment Horizons](#)

Provides preplacement, job coaching and Long-Term Follow Along to individuals who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

### [Employment Network Team \(ENT\)](#)

Provides preplacement, job coaching and Long-Term Follow Along to individuals who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

### [Goodwill North](#)

Goodwill Industries programs available through Goodwill's Vocational Rehabilitation Department: This agency provides Vocational Assessment, Work Readiness Classes in conjunction with Assessments, Supported Employment, Prevocational Services for people with Intellectual/Developmental illness, Extended Employment Services, and Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services.

### [Jewish Employment Vocational Services \(JEVS\) Hire Ability](#)

Hire Ability is an affiliate agency of JEVS Human Services that offers an empowering, customized employment program to assist individuals living with a disability or chronic disease by preparing them for competitive employment and community integration. Services: Centralized source of current job openings, Customized matching of applicant skills and interests to job openings, Support services during the placement process and follow-up after employment, Education in the job search process and programs to help applicants assess their employability.

### [Jewish Vocational Services \(JVS\)](#)

The JVS Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing (DHOH) Services department provides assessment and employment services to individuals who have a mild to profound functional hearing loss. JVS Vocational Rehabilitation specialists who have American Sign Language (ASL) skills also provide one-on-one job coaching as needed to help program participants secure and maintain long-term employment.



STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



NJ Division of  
Vocational Rehabilitation  
Services

## **Lexington Vocational Services**

Phone number: 973-477-6181

This agency offers a comprehensive range of supported employment programs for employees who are Deaf and the businesses that hire them. These supported programs include Assessment of an individual's skills and development of a supported work placement plan, Job Development — matching jobs to the individual's abilities, interests and vocational goals, Placement of an Employment Specialist during the first phase of employment to assist with training, Provision of extended services to the worker and the employer for the entire duration of employment to ensure that the relationship between employer and employee continues to be a positive one.

### [St. John of God](#)

Provides preplacement, job coaching and Long-Term Follow Along to individuals who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing.