



Communication Needs of Students with Hearing, Vision, or Speech Disabilities

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Two years ago on November 12, 2014, the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services and Office for Civil Rights, and the U.S. Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division, released three documents that provide important information regarding the communication needs of students with hearing, vision, or speech disabilities.

[A two-page fact sheet regarding Meeting the Communication Needs of Students with Hearing, Vision, or Speech](#)

[Disabilities](#) for the guidance for parents also available in [Spanish](#)

[A Dear Colleague letter concerning the communication needs of students with hearing, vision, or speech disabilities](#). Also available in [Spanish](#).

[A Frequently Asked Questions on Effective Communication for Students with Hearing, Vision, or Speech Disabilities in Public Elementary and Secondary Schools](#) document explaining the responsibility of public schools to

ensure that communication with students is effective for all students. This 30-page document provides OCR's responses to 20 questions regarding the above topic.

The guidance was intended to help schools understand and comply with the federal requirements for meeting the communications needs of students with disabilities in their districts. Superintendents were asked to disseminate the memorandum to Special Ed Directors, School Psychologists, Committee on Special Education and Preschool Special Education Chairpersons, Guidance Counselors, and to appropriate individuals within a school district.

For more information please visit

www.ada.gov/doe_doj_eff_comm/doe_doj_eff_comm_fact_sht.htm



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