

IS A CAREER AS A TEACHER OF THE DEAF RIGHT FOR YOU?



WHAT IS A TEACHER OF THE DEAF (ToD)?

A teacher of the deaf (ToD) provides educational services and supports to students who are deaf or hard of hearing. When communicating with students who are deaf or hard of hearing, a ToD will use the student's primary communication method (e.g., listening and speaking, sign language). These supports and services can be provided to individual students, a small group of students, or an entire classroom.

IN ADDITION TO TEACHING, WHAT DOES A TEACHER OF THE DEAF DO?

- Collect data and write reports on the progress of students for families and educational staff.
- Troubleshoot on how to use and maintain equipment, such as hearing aids and cochlear implants.
- Work with others so classrooms, materials, and instruction are understandable by the students.

WHERE COULD YOU WORK AS A TEACHER OF THE DEAF?

A ToD may teach in one specific classroom or in multiple settings throughout the day.

In a specific classroom (a school-based position), a ToD could:

- Have a classroom of students who are deaf or hard of hearing,
- Teach core content like English language arts, science, or math, and
- Support students who participate in general education classes.

In multiple settings (an itinerant position), a ToD could:

- Travel between schools to provide services for children who are deaf or hard of hearing,
- Work in one school district, several different districts, or on the county level through an intermediate unit or an agency, and
- Provide services in homes or hospitals.

YOU MIGHT ENJOY THIS WORK IF YOU ARE:

- A good communicator.
- Resourceful and like to stay updated on the latest trends.
- Passionate about supporting others.
- Patient and calm while under pressure.
- Positive and set high expectations for yourself and others.

VOICES FROM THE FIELD: MEET SOME TEACHERS OF THE DEAF

“The best part about my job, ...would definitely be the connections that I've made with parents and with families. You are that one person that really understands them.”

Jeannine Watson
Teacher of the Deaf
Beaver Valley IU 17

Scan or click the QR codes to watch the interviews.

Jeannine Watson
Beaver Valley IU 27



Mary Noschese
Western Pennsylvania
School for the Deaf



HOW TO BECOME A TEACHER OF THE DEAF IN PENNSYLVANIA:

There are currently three preparation programs for those seeking to become a Teacher of the Deaf.

Bachelor of Science:

Pursue a degree (Early Childhood PK-4/Deaf and Hard of Hearing N-12) to teach students in grades PK-12th grade who have a hearing loss, as well as hearing students in grades PK-4th grade.

- [Commonwealth University – Bloomsburg](#)
- [PennWest University – Edinboro](#)



Master of Science:

First, earn a bachelor's degree from a college or university. Then, enroll in the graduate program in Deaf and Hard of Hearing Education PK-12 at [St. Joseph's University](#). This program is offered fully online.

