



Tennessee
Schools for the Deaf

Dear Parents,

Tennessee Schools for the Deaf would like to inform you that we are moving to a Bilingual approach. This means that both ASL and English will be used campus wide. Research shows that a bilingual approach is most effective for your Deaf and/or hard of hearing child(ren). It provides them the opportunity to develop a strong foundation in American Sign Language (ASL). ASL is a visual language that consists of its own grammar, syntax, etc. A foundation in ASL prepares students for success in written and/or spoken English.

In order for children to fully gain a foundation in one language and later in the second language, the languages must be separated. Previously, TSD simultaneously used sign language and spoken English. Based on our research and observations at other schools, it is more effective to separate the languages.

We want to ensure that your child, regardless if he/she uses amplification (hearing aids, cochlear implants, Baha) or wears no amplification, is expected to use both languages, ASL and English (written and/or spoken). An educational plan will be developed for your child to provide opportunities for growth in each language to meet his/her individual needs over the course of the school year. We understand the value of your child's education, and we want to partner with you to provide the best education.

You are welcome to visit our website at www.tsdeaf.org to find additional resources. If you have additional questions please contact David Ogle, our parent outreach coordinator, at 865-469-9283.

Sincerely,

Dr. Vicki Kirk



ASL Video