

UVM Deaf, Hard of Hearing and DeafBlind School Consulting Project

2021-2022 Team Services

Our consultants serve as members of the school team with specialized knowledge of the unique access needs of students who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or DeafBlind. Consultants provide technical assistance and training to school teams in order to increase their capacity to meet the needs of these students.

Our consultants support school teams and families with children who are DHHDB without bias around communication modality or methodology. Our consultants are trained and experienced in working with and supporting all communication choices and guiding school teams and families to additional resources to support their students' individual needs.

COVID Precautions

There continues to be high levels of COVID-19 transmission in Vermont communities; students, staff, and consultants are all routinely impacted by COVID-19 and school quarantine/contact protocols. In order to ensure we protect students, school staff, and consultants while also striving to maintain coverage for the entire state throughout the year, we will provide as many services as possible through remote/virtual technology.

2021-22 Services include, but are not limited to:

- Remote: In-service training
 - Consultants lead a review of what we know about the student's hearing, the impact this may have on their access to communication/instruction, personal hearing equipment, recommended accommodations, and the care/use/troubleshooting of school hearing assistive technology.
- Remote and in-person: School hearing assistive technology troubleshooting
- Remote and in-person: Equipment: hearing assistive technology (FM/DM/HAT system supports).
 - Consultants guide school staff through the process of selecting, requesting quotes, ordering, fitting, and follow-up (verification/validation) for school hearing assistive technology.
- Remote and in-person observations
 - Consultants start with a remote "walk-through" to review the classroom design, classroom features (ceiling/floor), and student placement.
 - Consultants note any considerations for current hearing assistance technology use (FM/DM or classroom systems)

Note: Consultants do not have access to records from the previous consulting program. Consultants will work with school teams to create a new record and to make a technical assistance (TA) plan for the year. TA will focus on up to three services for each student team in order to work on an agreed upon TA goal for the year.

- Consultants update accommodation recommendations for the team to consider for current and future academic year teams
- Remote and in-person functional listening evaluations
 - Consultants train and support qualified (SLP) school staff to complete and understand results from informal functional assessments of listening at school.
 - Consultants are available to provide functional evaluations of a student's ability to access remote meetings.
- Remote: Team Meetings
 - Consultants have specialized knowledge of communication access challenges present when students are DHHDB. Consultants serve on school teams to ensure the unique access needs of students who are DHHDB are considered.
 - Consultants update accommodation recommendations based on current strengths and challenges.
 - Consultants are available to update the school teams on any new hearing test results or recommendations for updated assessments
- Remote: Transition Planning Consultation
 - Into preschool
 - Between elementary – middle- high school settings
 - Post-secondary
- Remote: Self-advocacy skill development conversations and direct instruction (both 1:1 and small-group)
 - Self-advocacy skill review and summary to team (based on expanded core curriculum for students who are DHHDB)
 - Skill practice and discussion
 - Recommendations to team on goals related to self-advocacy
- Remote: Clinical audiology-school communication. Support with communicating with the child's clinical audiologist to understand hearing evaluation results, personal hearing equipment, prognosis, treatment/management plans, and future needs.
- Remote: Support with understanding assessments for students who are DHHDB
- Remote: Consultation on instructional strategies for students who are DHHDB
- Remote: ASL Instruction (1:1 and small-group) and ASL club (small-group).
- Remote: Consultation on the use of sign in the school setting (ASL, Cued Speech, and Bilingual (ASL/English), and how to monitor access for students accessing communication through sign and/or bilingual approaches.

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- Remote: Consultants support school teams with understanding the services available in Vermont for students who are DHHDB and how to access them.
- Other Remote Training Opportunities as requested and based on consultant expertise and availability.

A Note on Consultation Services:

We recognize many school teams received consultation services from Nine East Network in the past and that their sudden closure, and the transition of consultation services to a new organization impacts your students' learning plans and the services you are going to receive for the year. Nine East Network was a private sector company, with their own service recommendation system and organizational goals.

The UVM Program is a new program staffed with experienced staff, housed within a nonprofit educational organization. We have different processes and procedures for identifying student needs and providing consultation services per our grant agreement with the AOE, and in accordance with national guidelines for service provision.

Our mission is to increase the school teams' capacity to identify and meet the needs of students who are DHHDB. Consultation services are being provided at no charge to schools this year through a hybrid, remote and in-person, service-delivery model. We have a team of consultants supporting the needs of students across the state; our collaborative team has access to expertise from teachers for students who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing (TFSDHH/TOD's), educational audiologists, an American Sign Language instructor, and a Speech-Language Pathologist to help guide you in this work.

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