This document was translated from English by machine and may contain mistakes. The English original is at https://www.novaracg.com/2026/10/08/who-will-publish-the-numbers-deaf-education-data-after-the-education-departments-deal-with-hhs/.

Leej Twg Yuav Tshaj Tawm Cov Lej? Cov Ntaub Ntawv Kev Kawm Deaf Tom Qab Lub Tsev Haujlwm Kawm Ntawv Sib Koom Tes Nrog HHS

Heather Grizzle · October 8, 2026

Daim ntawv cog lus tshwj xeeb hais txog kev kawm tshwj xeeb ntawm ED-HHS kuj suav nrog Gallaudet, NTID thiab IDEA cov haujlwm ua ntawm cov ntaub ntawv, tiamsis tsis tau hais meej tias leej twg yuav tseem tshaj tawm cov ntaub ntawv Section 618.

Cov Ntsiab Lus

1. Yam uas hloov thaum Lub Rau Hli
2. Feem ntawm daim ntawv teev npe uas cov neeg nyeem Deaf tsis txhob hla tseg
3. Qhov chaw uas cov ntaub ntawv nyob twj ywm
4. Yam uas tau tshwm sim txij thaum ntawd los
5. Vim li cas kev kawm ntawm Deaf thiaj hnov thawj zaug
6. Yam uas yuav tsum muab sau ua ntawv
7. Qhov chaw los

The agreement that moved special education's daily work to HHS also covers Gallaudet, NTID and the Helen Keller National Center, and it never says who will keep publishing the numbers

LUV LUV

- On June 15, 2026, the Education Department and HHS signed an agreement under which HHS provides services to run IDEA's grant programs, monitoring, state performance determinations and data work.
- Tib daim ntawv cog lus ntawd kuj npog cov programs raws li Education of the Deaf Act, suav nrog NTID, thiab Gallaudet University, Helen Keller National Center thiab American Printing House for the Blind.
- It splits data between the two agencies, with the Education Department keeping "data collection" and HHS providing services to support "the collection, reporting, and analyzing of data." It never names the IDEA Section 618 data, the EDFacts system, or the Annual Report to Congress.
- Cov ntaub ntawv federal ntawd yog tib qhov chaw uas suav cov tub ntxhais kawm uas lag ntseg thiab hnov tsis zoo nyob rau txhua lub xeev ib yam li ib yam. Tseem tsis tau muaj leej twg hais tawm rau pej xeem tias leej twg yuav tseem tshaj tawm cov no.

Every state file in the National Deaf Education Data Index starts in the same place: a school district's own website, a state agency's own reports, and a federal spreadsheet. The first two vary wildly. Some states publish a careful count of deaf and hard of hearing students by district every fall; others publish nothing a parent could find. The federal spreadsheet is the constant. When NDEDI built its Nevada file in September, the clearest picture of where deaf and hard of hearing students actually learn came from that federal file: of 518 students aged 5 to 21 served under the hearing impairment category in 2024-25, 307 spent at least 80 percent of their day in a regular classroom, and none were reported in a separate school or residential setting. The state's own count could be checked against it. Without it, there would have been nothing to check against.

Daim spreadsheet ntawd yog ib feem ntawm IDEA Section 618 data, cov lej uas txhua lub xeev tshaj rau tsoomfwv txhua xyoo txog cov menyuam uas lawv pab raws li Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, raws li disability category, hnub nyog, qhov chaw kawm thiab ntau yam ntxiv. Cov xeev xa nws los ntawm ib lub kaw lus federal hu ua EDFacts. Education Department tshaj tawm nws ua cov ntaub ntawv ntawm txhua lub xeev ntawm nws lub open data platform thiab tsim ib daim Annual

Report to Congress. Rau txhua tus uas sim muab sib piv tias cov menyuam lag ntseg tau kev kawm li cas nyob rau Kansas thiab Kentucky, nws yog tib qhov chaw uas suav txhua lub xeev ib yam.

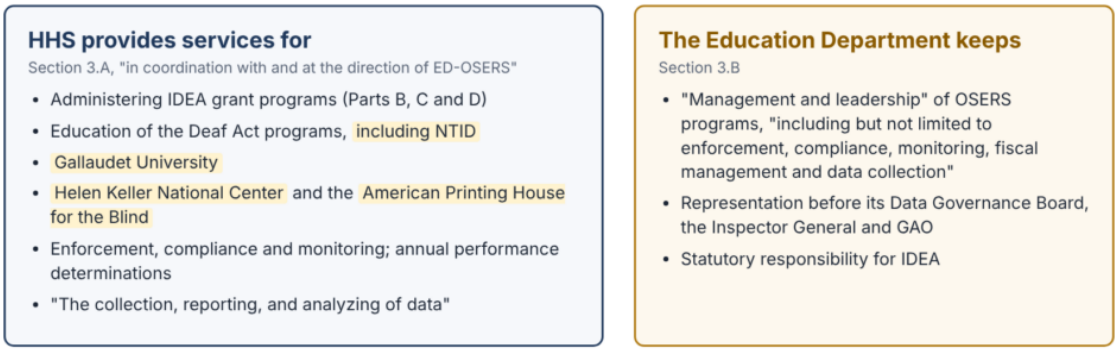
Yam uas hloov thaum Lub Rau Hli

On June 15, 2026, the Education Department and the Department of Health and Human Services signed an interagency agreement on special education and rehabilitative services, announced the next day alongside a separate agreement moving civil rights enforcement to the Justice Department. The agreement is short, eight pages, and plain about what moves. Under section 3.A, HHS commits to provide services, "in coordination with and at the direction of ED-OSERS," supporting the administration of IDEA's grant programs under Parts B, C and D; enforcement, compliance and monitoring; the "annual performance determinations" that rate each state; fiscal audits; and "the collection, reporting, and analyzing of data for monitoring compliance with statutory and regulatory requirements and for improving outcomes for infants, toddlers, children, youth, and adults with disabilities."

The Education Department keeps statutory responsibility for IDEA. Under section 3.B, it retains "Management and leadership of OSERS' programs and activities," which the agreement says includes "but not limited to enforcement, compliance, monitoring, fiscal management and data collection," along with representation before its Data Governance Board, the Inspector General and the Government Accountability Office. The agreement took effect on the date of the last signature, has no end date, and can be terminated by either side on 90 days' written notice. The contact named for HHS sits in its Administration on Disabilities.

FIGURE 1

Who does what under the June 15, 2026 agreement



Source: Interagency Agreement Between the U.S. Department of Education and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Relating to Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, signed June 15, 2026. In effect until terminated; either party may end it on 90 days' notice.

Duab 1. Leej twg ua dab tsi raws li daim ntawv cog lus thaum Lub Rau Hli 15, 2026. Cov ntsiab lus raug hais txog yog cov nyob ze tshaj plaws rau kev kawm ntawm cov Deaf thiab DeafBlind.

Feem ntawm daim ntawv teev npe uas cov neeg nyeem Deaf tsis txhob hla tseg

Most coverage of the agreement has focused, reasonably, on IDEA and on what it means for students' individualized education programs. Further down the same list are four items that bear directly on Deaf and DeafBlind education. HHS will provide services supporting "the administration of program components authorized under the Education of the Deaf Act of 1986, including the National Technical Institute for the Deaf"; supporting "the administration of Gallaudet University," described in the agreement as "intended to provide education and training to individuals who are deaf and otherwise to further the education of individuals who are deaf"; supporting the Helen Keller National Center Act programs; and supporting the American Printing House for the Blind.

The agreement does not change what any of these institutions are, and it does not say what "services supporting the administration" of a university means in practice. It does mean that the federal relationship with the two national institutions of Deaf higher education, and with the national center for DeafBlind adults, now runs in part through a health department rather than an education department. In the coverage NCG reviewed, that has drawn far less attention than it deserves.

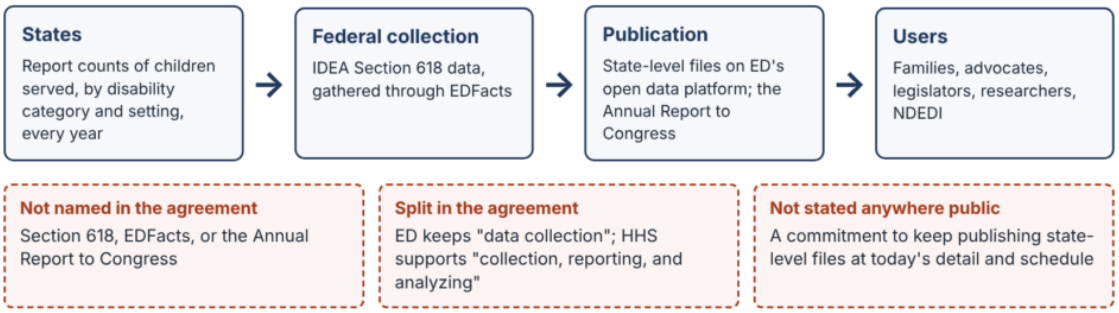
Qhov chaw uas cov ntaub ntawv nyob twj ywm

Read closely, the agreement splits the data work between the two departments without saying how. The Education Department keeps "data collection" as part of its management and leadership. HHS provides "services to support the collection, reporting, and analyzing of data." Who designs the collection, who runs EDFacts, who checks the states' submissions, who publishes the state-level files, and who writes the Annual Report to Congress are not stated. The agreement never uses the words "Section 618," "EDFacts" or "Annual Report to Congress," and it contains no commitment to keep publishing the data at its current level of detail or on its current schedule.

Qhov ntawd tej zaum yog li cas cov interagency agreements raug sau. Lawv piav txog kev pabcuam thiab nyiaj txiag, tsis yog txhua yam khoom tawm. Tab sis qhov sib txawv tseem ceeb vim yam uas tshwm sim ua ntej daim ntawv cog lus. Thaum Lub Kaum Hli 2025, thaum tsoomfwv raug kaw, cov ntawv ceeb toom reduction-in-force ncig thoob plaws Education Department, thiab K-12 Dive tshaj tawm tias cov thawj coj ntawm special education association ntseeg tias feem ntau ntawm Office of Special Education Programs raug rho tawm haujlwm. Thaum Lub Kaum Ib Hli, ib daim nqi txais nyiaj ib ntus rov tsim kho cov neeg ua haujlwm ntawm Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services. Xya lub hli tom qab, tej haujlwm niaj hnub mus rau HHS. Ib lub kaw lus ntaub ntawv muaj peev xwm dim ntau yam, tab sis nws nyob dim vim muaj cov neeg paub nws, thiab cov ntaub ntawv pej xeem tsis tau hais tias cov neeg ntawd tam sim no nyob qhov twg.

FIGURE 2

The chain that produces the national numbers, and where the agreement goes quiet

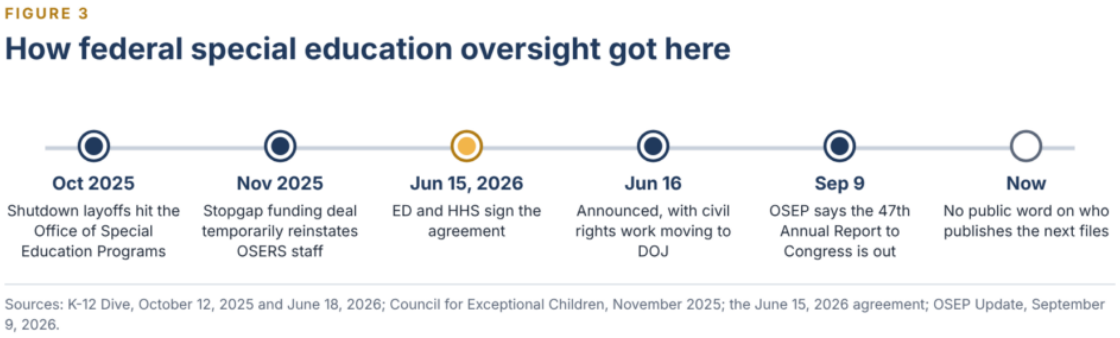


Sources: the June 15, 2026 agreement; ed.gov, IDEA Section 618 Data; data.gov catalog entry for IDEA Section 618 state-level files (metadata last modified May 7, 2026). The notes row is NCG's reading.

Duab 2. Txoj saw uas tsim cov lej thoob teb chaws, thiab qhov chaw uas daim ntawv cog lus nyob twj ywm. Kab hauv qab yog NCG qhov kev nkag siab.

Yam uas tau tshwm sim txij thaum ntawd los

The record since June is mixed, not alarming. The Office of Special Education Programs held its annual conference in August, with sessions on "high-quality section 618 data." Its September 9 bulletin announced that the 47th Annual Report to Congress on IDEA had been released, with a companion fact sheet, and a panel at the conference said IDEA rights "cannot and will not change through our partnership." The federal catalog entry for the state-level 618 files was last updated on May 7, 2026, before the agreement was signed. Nothing NCG located says the next files will be late, or thinner, or published somewhere else. Nothing says they won't be, either. And K-12 Dive's reading of the agreement in June found that states and districts were still asking which HHS office would oversee the work and who would send them guidance.



Duab 3. Yuav ua li cas kev saib xyuas special education federal thiaj nyob txog qhov no.

Vim li cas kev kawm ntawm Deaf thiaj hnov thawj zaug

Txhua disability category nyob ntawm cov ntaub ntawv no, tab sis kev kawm ntawm Deaf nyob ntawd ntawm ib txoj kev tshwj xeeb. Cov tub ntxhais kawm lag ntseg thiab hnov tsis zoo yog ib pawg neeg tsawg tsawg, ib feem me ntawm cov menyuam tawg rau ntau lub districts, uas yog tib yam neeg uas cov xeev thiab district kev tshaj tawm feem ntau poob. Cov lej me raug zais kom muaj kev ntiag tug. Cov districts uas pab ob tug tub ntxhais kawm lag ntseg los ntawm ib lub koom tes lossis ib lub program hauv cheeb tsam feem ntau tsis tshaj tawm dab tsi li. Nyob rau hauv kev xwm txheej ntawd, daim federal file feem ntau yog tib qhov chaw uas ib tug lej thoob plaws lub xeev muaj, thiab tib qhov chaw uas ib lub xeev sib piv tau nrog lwm lub xeev. Yog 618 cov ntaub ntawv dim mus, cov tub ntxhais kawm uas yuav ploj mus ntawm cov ntaub ntawv pej xeem yog cov uas nyuaj pom thaum chiv keeb lawm.

Yam uas yuav tsum muab sau ua ntawv

Tsis muaj ib qho ntawm cov no yuav xav kom leej twg xav tias muaj kev tsis ncaj ncees. Nws xav kom muaj ib co kab lus uas daim ntawv cog lus tsis muaj. Education Department thiab HHS yuav tso kom pom tseeb rau pej xeem los ntawm kev hais tias:

- That the IDEA Section 618 collection through EDFacts will continue on its existing schedule, at its existing level of detail, including disability category by state.
- Which department, and which office, publishes the state-level files and the Annual Report to Congress from now on, and where.
- That historical files will stay available at their current addresses.

- Who to contact with questions about the data, now that the HHS contact for the agreement sits in the Administration on Disabilities.

Families, state special education directors, state deaf commissions and legislators can ask for exactly that, in writing, through the Education Department's Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services. NDEDI's state files cite the federal data by school year and source, so any change in what is published will show up in the record rather than disappearing into it. NDEDI's state release schedule is at ndedi.org.

Qhov chaw los

- Interagency Agreement Between the U.S. Department of Education and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Relating to Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, signed June 15, 2026, retrieved October 8, 2026.
- K-12 Dive, "Takeaways from the Ed Dept-HHS special ed agreement," June 18, 2026.
- K-12 Dive, "RIFs rip through federal Office of Special Education Programs," October 12, 2025.
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- U.S. Department of Education, OSEP Update, September 2026, September 9, 2026.
- U.S. Department of Education, IDEA Section 618 Data, page last reviewed April 2, 2026.
- Data.gov, IDEA Section 618 State Level Data Files, metadata last modified May 7, 2026, retrieved October 8, 2026.
- National Deaf Education Data Index, Nevada state file, September 2026, using the IDEA Section 618 Part B educational environments file for 2024-25.

TIPS

Know something about a sign language AI system that the public should know? Send it to tips@novaracg.com. Every tip is read by me and kept confidential. If you work in the UK, writing to us is not by itself a protected disclosure under the Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998, so before you share employer information, check your options with Protect (protect-advice.org.uk), the free whistleblowing advice line.

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Yuav Hais Qhov Chaw Li Cas

Grizzle, H. M. (2026, October 8). Who Will Publish the Numbers? Deaf Education Data After the Education Department's Deal With HHS. Novara Consulting Group. https://www.novaracg.com/hmn/2026/10/08/who-will-publish-the-numbers-deaf-education-data-after-the-education-departments-deal-with-hhs/