This document was translated from English by machine and may contain mistakes. The English original is at https://www.novaracg.com/2026/09/05/untitled-insightdelaware-keeps-its-deaf-school-inside-one-local-district-and-no-public-document-says-what-it-costs/.

Delaware Tso Nws Lub Tsev Kawm Ntawv Rau Deaf Nyob Hauv Ib Cheeb Tsam Hauv Zos, Thiab Tsis Muaj Ntawv Pej Xeem Twg Qhia Tias Nws Raug Nqi Npaum Li Cas

Heather Grizzle · September 5, 2026

Delaware keeps its only school for deaf children inside one local district. No public document says what that arrangement costs. NDEDI's Delaware file.

What the Delaware state file in the National Deaf Education Data Index found...

Delaware yeej yuav tsum tau yog qhov yooj yim. Kaum cuaj cheeb tsam kawm ntawv, nees nkaum ob lub tuam txhab charter, ib lub tsev kawm ntawv rau cov menyuam ho, thiab lub xeev me heev kom ib tsev neeg nyob hauv Selbyville tuaj tsheb mus rau qhov tsev kawm ntawv rau cov ho tib lub uas muaj hauv lub xeev thiab rov qab los tau rau ib tag zog. Thaum kuv tsim cov ntaub ntawv Delaware rau National Deaf Education Data Index thaum lub Yim Hli, kuv xav tias yuav tau ib phau ntawv qhia luv luv. Yog li ntawd, tus ntaub ntawv tau tsim tau qhov kev tswj hwm txawv txawv tshaj plaws hauv yim lub xeev uas tau tshuaj xyuas mus txog tam sim no, ib tug qauv kev nyiaj txiag uas tsis muaj ib phau ntawv luam tawm twg qhia meej, thiab ib tug tsis txaus siab txog kev cai raug cai federal uas tsis muaj leej twg, txawm tias yog lub xeev los xij, tuaj yeem txheeb xyuas tau tus lej tseem ceeb ntawd.

Qhov Index yog ib qho project qhia txog tsib caug ib lub cheeb tsam kev cai lij choj, muab ntaub ntawv los ntawm cov qhov chaw thawj txoj hauv paus xwb, qhia txog qhov twg cov menyuam Deaf thiab hnov tsis meej kawm ntawv, dab tsi yog cov nyiaj pej xeem raws lawv mus, thiab dab tsi yog cov khoom siv thaj chaw tswj hwm kev muab kev pab. Tag nrho tsib caug ib lub Delaware local education agencies tau raug tshuaj xyuas, txhua tus lej qhia hauv qab no yog qhov muaj chaw taug qab tau rau ib

qhov chaw pej xeem uas muaj npe, thiab qhov twg cov ntaub ntawv tsis muaj lus qhia, phau ntawv qhia li ntawd tsis pub ntxiv rau qhov nqaim. Qhov kev txwv tsis pub muaj kev yuam kev ntawd tseem ceeb dua nyob hauv Delaware tshaj li lub xeev twg thaum ub.

Ib lub tsev kawm ntawv xeev uas yog ib feem ntawm ib cheeb tsam kawm ntawv

The Delaware School for the Deaf in Newark is a public residential school with a statutory basis, state-funded staff positions, and accreditation from the Conference of Educational Administrators of Schools and Programs for the Deaf. It is also a school of the Christina School District, one of Delaware's nineteen local districts, and so is Statewide Programs for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Deaf-Blind, the umbrella that serves deaf children in the other forty agencies. Where Alabama runs its deaf school through a state agency and Connecticut buys places at a private one, Delaware keeps a public school and places the whole apparatus inside one local district.

Txoj cai lij choj siv, 14 Del. C. § 1331, nyeem zoo li ib qho sij hawm ua hauj lwm tshaj li ib qho charter. Nws teeb tsa qhov ncua ntawm cov xibfwb pab, cov xibfwb qhia lus tes, cov kws qhia ntawv nyeem, thiab cov kws qhia txog kev nyob tsev kawm ntawv, hais tias tag nrho lawv yog cov haujlwm hauv chav xeev, thiab tsis muaj qhov twg qhia Christina. Tsis muaj txoj cai twg hauv Title 14 muab lub tsev kawm ntawv rau ib lub cheeb tsam twg tau nrhiav pom, yog li qhov kev muab ntawd zoo li nyob ntawm txoj hauv kev tswj hwm tsis yog txoj cai lij choj meej. Qhov ntawd tsis yog ib qho lus ua kev tshawb fawb xwb. Rau lub Ib Hlis 1, 2023 Cov Neeg Sawv Cev tau siv cov lus hauv budget epilogue los tsav Office of Statewide Autism Programs tawm ntawm Christina thiab mus rau Department of Education. Txoj hauv kev tshem tawm ib qho program hauv tag nrho lub xeev ntawm cheeb tsam muaj, nws tau raug siv nyob rau ntawm plaub xyoo dhau los, thiab cov kev pab rau ho, hnov tsis meej, thiab ho-dig tseem yog cov tib lub uas tseem nyob qhov ntawd.

Nyiaj txiag uas ncig los ntawm peb txoj kev thiab tsis pom nyob rau qhov twg

Christina's own budget documents describe the school as one of three programmes for which the district is fiscal agent and state that they "are all partially state funded with the remainder coming from tuition billing." The state's share arrives through the ordinary unit count. In the certified 2025-26 count the school carries 105 students

generating 40.38 units, every one of them in the complex special education unit and none in preschool, basic or intensive. The remainder arrives as bills. Delaware law lets a receiving district charge tuition for a nonresident pupil counted in the complex unit, and because every student at the school is a complex-unit student, every one of them is billable to the district or charter where the family lives. Those sending agencies pay from a local tuition tax that each board may levy without a referendum.

The consequence is that no state budget document isolates a dollar figure for the Delaware School for the Deaf. The Governor's FY2026 recommended budget itemises no district and no statewide programme. No per-pupil tuition rate is published, and no document states whether charters are billed on the same basis as districts or whether families pay anything for the residential programme. Capital is the one clean case: the State Auditor's records show roughly thirty-nine million dollars in state construction appropriations between 2007 and 2010. Operating cost is invisible.

I want to be precise about what that does and does not mean. A legislator, a parent, an advocate or an auditor asking what Delaware spends on deaf education cannot answer the question from published sources. That is not evidence of anything improper. It is evidence that the school's finances are structurally hidden by the design of the funding, which is a more durable problem than any particular funding level would be. One illustration: a court-ordered property reassessment in New Castle County forced Christina to reset its tuition tax rate from $0.8903 to $0.1981 per hundred dollars of assessed value, and that levy is the one from which tuition billing is paid. A county reassessment reaches, three steps removed, the local tax that helps fund the state's only school for deaf children.

Plaub caug tuam txhab, ib lub npe

Delaware has no listening and spoken language educational placement. There are no OPTION Schools members, no auditory-oral school, and no auditory-verbal track anywhere in the state; the only such service is clinical, inside the cochlear implant programme at Nemours Children's Health. Christina therefore holds both ends of the pathway. What it does not hold is the day-to-day instruction of mainstreamed deaf children. Its outreach arm describes itself as a provider of "technical assistance, coaching, and professional development," and its service list is addressed to district staff rather than to students, asking districts whether their assessment teams understand hearing loss and whether they have "the time and training" to evaluate their own deaf education staff.

That last question presumes districts have deaf education staff to evaluate. Of forty-one local education agencies, exactly one names the Delaware School for the Deaf, Statewide Programs, or Christina anywhere on its public website, and that one is Christina. Two agencies met the threshold for a coded programme: Christina, the operator, and Appoquinimink, the state's largest district, whose entire published hearing provision is one bullet in a related services list reading "itinerant services for the hard of hearing, partially deaf (HHPD)." Fourteen agencies mention hearing only in passing. Twenty-four publish nothing at all. One, a Dover charter whose every web domain has failed, could not be read by any method. No Delaware agency outside Christina publishes the title of a teacher of the deaf, an educational interpreter or an educational audiologist. Publication is not the same as service, and the Index says so in every workbook. But a service designed to build district capacity is operating in a state where no district discloses any.

Tus lej nyob rau nruab nrab ntawm ib qho kev tsis txaus siab txog kev cai raug cai uas tsis muaj leej twg tuaj yeem txheeb xyuas

In December 2023 the ACLU of Delaware filed a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights alleging systemic discrimination against deaf and hard of hearing youth. Its headline claim was quantitative: nationally about nine per cent of deaf and hard of hearing children attend a school for the deaf, and in Delaware the figure is over forty. The director of Statewide Programs said she was "not sure where they got the 40% number." Members of the deaf community objected to the complaint as well, the ACLU filed a narrowed version in June 2024 with an apology, and no public outcome has been located.

Here is what the state's own record can contribute. The Department of Education's last child count broken out by disability category is for 2017-18. It recorded 201 students aged six to twenty-one in the hearing impairment category, of whom 113 spent most of the school day in a regular class and 56 were in a separate school, a share of 27.9 per cent. Nothing comparable has been published since. Current educational environment files disaggregate by age and by race and never by disability category, and the state's otherwise excellent open data portal carries a single binary disability flag. As of 2024-25 there is no published Delaware source from which anyone can determine where the state's deaf and hard of hearing students are educated.

The 27.9 per cent figure and the forty per cent figure are not the same measure, and the file does not pretend they are. The complaint appears to describe all deaf and hard of hearing children, including those under five, where the school's share would be much higher. But the point holds whichever number is closer to right. A state facing a federal complaint about placement rates stopped publishing placement rates by disability category several years before the complaint was filed. I found no evidence the two facts are connected, and the second is almost certainly a reporting simplification. The effect is identical either way: the central factual question in the dispute cannot be resolved from Delaware's published data by the complainant, the respondent, or anyone else.

Dab tsi ntxiv uas tus ntaub ntawv tau kho

Two smaller findings are worth carrying forward. Delaware was believed to have passed a LEAD-K style language milestones law between 2017 and 2019. It did not. The nearest instrument is the 2010 Deaf Children's Bill of Rights, which guarantees that no child is denied instruction in a communication mode solely because another is used, but creates no assessment tool and no advisory body. This is the third consecutive state in the series whose believed LEAD-K provision dissolved on inspection. And Delaware's educational interpreter standard is unusually strict, requiring an EIPA score of 4.0 with no provisional tier where many states accept 3.5, yet the state has no general interpreter licensure at all, and a 2022 bill to create one died in committee.

Dab tsi tus ntaub ntawv tsis tuaj yeem txheeb tau meej

Tus nqi nyiaj rau lub tsev kawm ntawv nyob rau xyoo twg. Tus nqi tuition raug them rau cov tuam txhab xa menyuam. Seb Christina cov neeg ua hauj lwm qhia cov menyuam sau npe nyob lwm qhov los sis tsuas qhia lawv cov xibfwb xwb. Tus cuab yeej, yog muaj, uas muab lub tsev kawm ntawv rau Christina. Cov ntaub ntawv kev muab chaw kawm ntawv tam sim no raws hom kev tsis taus. Xyoo 2014 Deaf Education Task Force report, qhov kev tshuaj xyuas kawg ntawm lub xeev hais txog qhov teeb meem no, uas tsis tuaj yeem nrhiav pom hauv online. Txhua yam raug teev tseg ua qhov nqaim tsis yog kho, thiab ntau qhov muaj peev xwm kaw tau los ntawm ib qho kev thov ntaub ntawv.

Delaware yog lub xeev thib yim hauv Index thiab thib yim uas qhia tias tsis muaj ib qho qauv teb chaws rau kev kawm ntawv rau cov menyuam ho. Qhov nws ntxiv yog ib

qho lus qhia meej txog kev pom tau. Ib lub tsev kawm ntawv tuaj yeem yog pej xeem, muaj txoj cai lij choj, tau txais kev lees paub, thiab ruaj khov nyob rau kev sau npe, tab sis tseem tsis tuaj yeem pom hauv ib phau ntawv budget los sis ib qho dataset kev muab chaw kawm ntawv. Index muaj los ua kom qhov kev nqaim ntawd pom tau, ib lub xeev ib zaug.

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, September 5). Delaware Tso Nws Lub Tsev Kawm Ntawv Rau Deaf Nyob Hauv Ib Cheeb Tsam Hauv Zos, Thiab Tsis Muaj Ntawv Pej Xeem Twg Qhia Tias Nws Raug Nqi Npaum Li Cas. Novara Consulting Group. https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.23003313