NOVARA
CONSULTING GROUP

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/.

Kto opublikuje liczby? Dane dotyczące edukacji Głuchych po porozumieniu Departamentu Edukacji z HHS

Heather Grizzle · October 8, 2026

Porozumienie ED-HHS dotyczące edukacji specjalnej obejmuje prace nad danymi Gallaudet, NTID i IDEA, ale nigdzie nie wskazuje, kto będzie nadal publikował pliki Section 618.

Spis treści

1. Co zmieniło się w czerwcu
2. Część listy, której czytelnicy Głusi nie powinni pomijać
3. Gdzie dane milkną
4. Co ujawniono od tego czasu
5. Dlaczego edukacja osób Głuchych odczuwa to najpierw
6. Co powinno zostać ujęte na piśmie
7. Źródła

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

W SKRÓCIE

- 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.
- To samo porozumienie obejmuje programy Education of the Deaf Act, w tym NTID, a także Gallaudet University, Helen Keller National Center oraz 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.
- Te federalne zbiory danych są jedynym źródłem, które liczy uczniów Głuchych i niedosłyszących w każdym stanie w ten sam sposób. Nikt publicznie nie powiedział, kto będzie je nadal publikować.

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.

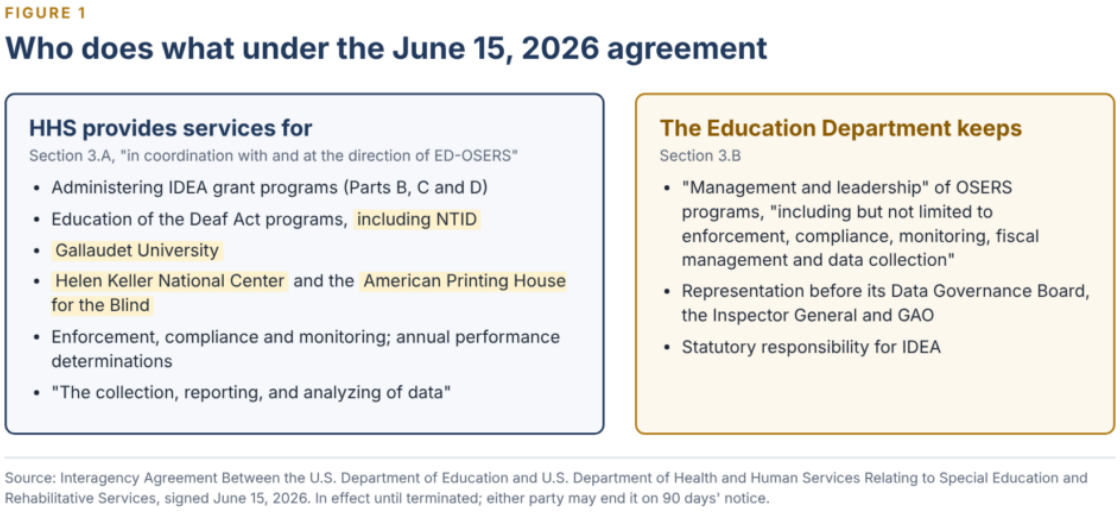
Ten arkusz danych jest częścią danych z sekcji 618 IDEA — liczb, które każdy stan co roku zgłasza rządowi federalnemu na temat dzieci objętych opieką na mocy Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, według kategorii niepełnosprawności, wieku, środowiska nauki i innych czynników. Stany przekazują je za pośrednictwem federalnego systemu o nazwie EDFacts. Departament Edukacji publikuje je jako pliki na poziomie stanów na swojej platformie otwartych danych i podsumowuje w Rocznym Raporcie dla Kongresu. Dla każdego, kto próbuje porównać sposób kształcenia dzieci Głuchych

w Kansas i Kentucky, jest to jedyne źródło, które liczy wszystkie stany w ten sam sposób.

Co zmieniło się w czerwcu

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.



Rysunek 1. Kto robi co w ramach porozumienia z 15 czerwca 2026 r. Wyróżnione pozycje to te najbliżej związane z edukacją osób Głuchych i DeafBlind.

Część listy, której czytelnicy Głusi nie powinni pomijać

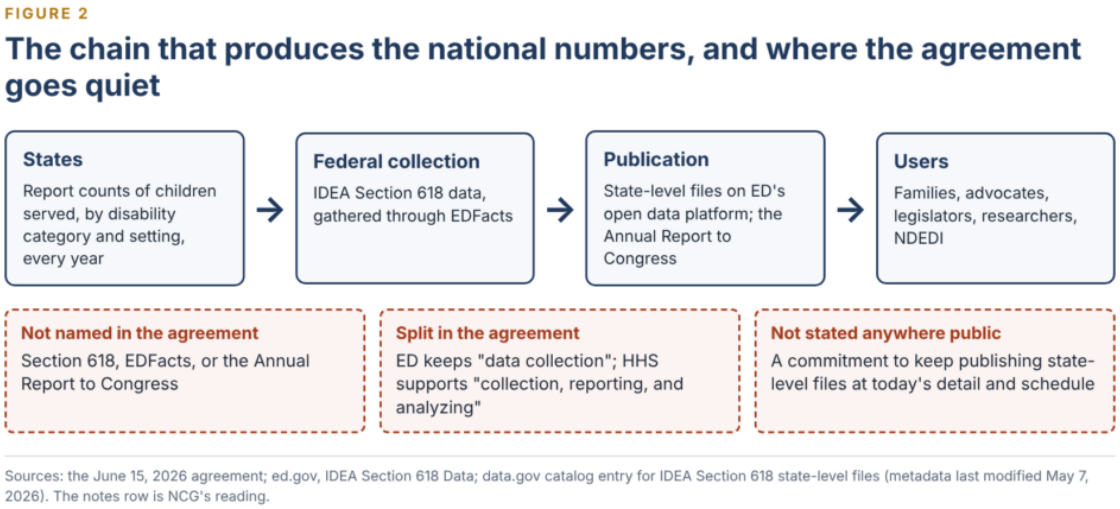
Most coverage of the agreement has focused, reasonably, on IDEA and on what it means for students' individualized education programs. Further down the same list are four items that bear directly on Deaf and DeafBlind education. HHS will provide services supporting "the administration of program components 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.

Gdzie dane milkną

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.

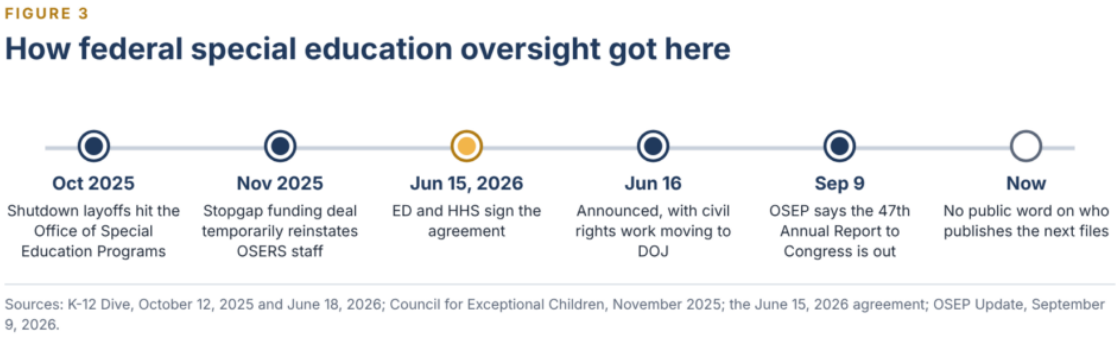
Być może tak po prostu piszą się porozumienia międzyagencyjne. Opisują usługi i finansowanie, nie każdy produkt. Jednak ta luka ma znaczenie ze względu na to, co wydarzyło się przed podpisaniem porozumienia. W październiku 2025 r., podczas zamknięcia rządu (shutdown), przez Departament Edukacji przeszła fala zawiadomień o redukcji zatrudnienia, a K-12 Dive doniosło, że liderzy stowarzyszeń edukacji specjalnej uważali, iż większość Office of Special Education Programs została zwolniona. W listopadzie ustawa o tymczasowym finansowaniu tymczasowo przywróciła personel Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services. Siedem miesięcy później codzienna praca trafiła do HHS. System danych może przetrwać wiele, ale przetrwa dzięki ludziom, którzy go znają, a publiczny zapis nie mówi, gdzie ci ludzie teraz się znajdują.



Rysunek 2. Łańcuch, który tworzy ogólnokrajowe dane liczbowe, oraz miejsce, w którym porozumienie milknie. Dolny wiersz to interpretacja NCG.

Co ujawniono od tego czasu

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.



Rysunek 3. Jak doszło do obecnego stanu federalnego nadzoru nad edukacją specjalną.

Dlaczego edukacja osób Głuchych odczuwa to najpierw

Od tych danych zależy każda kategoria niepełnosprawności, ale edukacja osób Głuchych zależy od nich w szczególny sposób. Uczniowie Głusi i niedosłyszący stanowią populację o niskiej częstości występowania — niewielki odsetek dzieci rozproszonych cienko po wielu okręgach, co jest dokładnie tą populacją, którą raportowanie stanowe i okręgowe ma tendencję pomijać. Małe liczby są ukrywane ze względu na prywatność. Okręgi obsługujące dwoje Głuchych uczniów za pośrednictwem spółdzielni lub programu regionalnego często nie publikują niczego. W tym krajobrazie federalny plik jest często jedynym miejscem, w którym istnieje ogólnostanowa liczba, i jedynym miejscem, w którym jeden stan można porównać z drugim. Jeśli dane sekcji 618 się pogorszą, uczniowie, którzy najprawdopodobniej znikną z publicznego zapisu, to ci, których najtrudniej było dostrzec od samego początku.

Co powinno zostać ujęte na piśmie

Żadne z tych stwierdzeń nie wymaga zakładania złej woli. Wymaga jedynie kilku zdań, których porozumienie nie zawiera. Departament Edukacji i HHS mogłyby publicznie rozstrzygnąć tę kwestię, oświadczając:

- 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.

Źródła

- 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.
- Council for Exceptional Children, "Congress Temporarily Reopens Federal Government, Reinstates OSERS Personnel," November 14, 2025.
- 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.

SUPPORT NCG

NCG does this work without vendor money, so our findings stay ours. If it has been useful to you, you can support NCG's independent work here. NCG is a for-profit company, not a charity. Contributions are not tax-deductible and buy no service or influence.

Jak cytować

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/pl/2026/10/08/who-will-publish-the-numbers-deaf-education-data-after-the-education-departments-deal-with-hhs/