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Delaware utrzymuje swoją szkołę dla Deaf w ramach jednego lokalnego okręgu, a żaden publiczny dokument nie podaje, ile to kosztuje

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 miało być tym łatwym przypadkiem. Dziewiętnaście okręgów szkolnych, dwadzieścia dwie agencje czarterowe, jedna szkoła dla dzieci głuchych i stan na tyle mały, że rodzina z Selbyville może pojechać do jedynej szkoły dla głuchych w stanie i wrócić w ciągu jednego popołudnia. Kiedy w sierpniu tworzyłam kartę Delaware dla National Deaf Education Data Index, spodziewałam się krótkiego profilu. Zamiast tego rekord ujawnił najbardziej nietypowy układ zarządzania spośród ośmiu zbadanych dotąd stanów, model finansowania, którego nie kwantyfikuje żaden opublikowany dokument, oraz czynną federalną skargę dotyczącą praw obywatelskich, której centralnej liczby nikt, łącznie ze stanem, nie jest w stanie zweryfikować.

Index to projekt referencyjny obejmujący pięćdziesiąt jeden jurysdykcji, dokumentujący — wyłącznie na podstawie źródeł pierwotnych — gdzie kształcą się uczniowie głusi i niedosłyszący, jakie środki publiczne są z nimi powiązane oraz jaki aparat instytucjonalny reguluje to kształcenie. Wszystkie czterdzieści jeden lokalnych agencji edukacyjnych Delaware zostało poddanych audytowi, każda liczba poniżej daje się prześledzić do nazwanego źródła publicznego, a tam, gdzie rekord milczał, karta to zaznacza, zamiast wypełniać lukę. Ta dyscyplina miała tu większe znaczenie niż w jakimkolwiek wcześniej zbadanym stanie.

Szkoła stanowa należąca do okręgu

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.

Obowiązujący przepis, 14 Del. C. § 1331, czyta się raczej jak grafik obsady kadrowej niż statut. Ustala proporcje nauczycieli zasobowych, lektorów tłumaczy, specjalistów od umiejętności czytania i pisania oraz doradców internatu, ogłasza wszystkich jako stanowiska jednostek stanowych i nigdzie nie wymienia Christina. Nie udało się odnaleźć żadnego przepisu Tytułu 14, który przypisywałby szkołę jakiemukolwiek okręgowi, wygląda więc na to, że przypisanie opiera się na praktyce administracyjnej, a nie na wyraźnym prawie. To nie jest kwestia czysto akademicka. 1 stycznia 2023 roku Zgromadzenie Ogólne wykorzystało język epilogu budżetowego, by przenieść Office of Statewide Autism Programs z Christina do Department of Education. Mechanizm odłączenia programu ogólnostanowego od okręgu istnieje, był stosowany w ciągu ostatnich czterech lat, a programy dla głuchych, niedosłyszących i głuchoniewidomych są jedynymi, które nadal tam pozostają.

Pieniądze, które płyną trzema kanałami i nie pojawiają się w żadnym z nich

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.

Czterdzieści agencji, jedna nazwa

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 doma-

in 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.

Liczba w centrum skargi dotyczącej praw obywatelskich, której nikt nie potrafi zweryfikować

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.

Co jeszcze skorygował ten rekord

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.

Czego karta nie mogła ustalić

Koszt szkoły w dolarach w jakimkolwiek roku. Stawka czesnego pobierana od agencji wysyłających. Czy personel Christina naucza uczniów zapisanych gdzie indziej, czy jedynie doradza ich nauczycielom. Instrument, jeśli taki istnieje, który przypisuje szkołę do Christina. Aktualne dane o umieszczeniu według kategorii niepełnosprawności. Raport Deaf Education Task Force z 2014 roku, ostatnie stanowe badanie tego tematu, którego nie udało się znaleźć w internecie. Każdy z tych punktów został zapisany jako luka, a nie wypełniony, a kilka z nich mogłoby zostać zamkniętych przez wniosek o udostępnienie dokumentów.

Delaware jest ósmym stanem w Index i ósmym, który pokazuje, że nie istnieje żadna krajowa norma dotycząca tego, jak stan kształci dzieci głuche. To, co wnosi ten stan, to konkretna lekcja na temat widoczności. Szkoła może być publiczna, ustawowa, akredytowana i stabilna pod względem liczby uczniów, a mimo to niemożliwa do odnalezienia w budżecie czy w zbiorze danych o umieszczeniu. Index istnieje po to, by tego rodzaju nieobecność uczynić czytelną, stan po stanie.

> **TIPS**
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> 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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Jak cytować

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