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/.

特拉华州将聋人学校保留在一个地方学区内,却没有任何公开文件说明其成本

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...

特拉华州本应是最简单的一个。十九个学区,二十二个特许学校机构,一所聋童学校,而且这个州小到塞尔比维尔的一个家庭可以开车去州内唯一的聋人学校再返回,一个下午就能完成往返。当我在八月为《全国聋人教育数据指数》建立特拉华州档案时,我预期会得到一份简短的概况。然而这份记录呈现出的,却是迄今考察的八个州中最不寻常的治理安排、一种没有任何公开文件加以量化的筹资模式,以及一项其核心数字连州政府自己都无法核实的、正在进行中的联邦民权投诉。

该指数是一个涵盖五十一个辖区的参考项目,仅依据一手资料记录聋人和重听学生在何处接受教育、有哪些公共资金随之流转,以及哪些制度机制对此进行治理。特拉华州全部四十一个地方教育机构均已接受审查,以下每一个数字都可以追溯到一个具名的公开来源,而当记录出现空白时,档案会如实指出,而不是用臆测填补。这种严谨性在特拉华州比在此前任何一个州都更为重要。

一所属于某个学区的州立学校

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.

作为依据的法规《特拉华州法典》第14篇第1331条,读起来更像是一份人员编制表,而非一份章程。它规定了资源教师、传译辅导员、读写专家和寄宿顾问的配比,宣布这些岗位均为州级编制岗位,却从未提及克里斯蒂纳学区。经查,第14篇中并无任何条款将该校指派给某个学区,因此这种归属似乎依据的是行政惯例,而非明文法律。这并非纸上谈兵的论点。2023年1月1日,州议会通过预算附则语言,将全州自闭症项目办公室从克里斯蒂纳学区划出,归入教育部管理。将一个全州性项目从该学区剥离的机制是存在的,而且在过去四年内已被使用过,而聋、重听及聋盲项目是唯一仍留在该学区内的项目。

流经三条渠道、却不见于任何账目的资金

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.

四十个机构,一个名字

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.

一个无人能够核实的民权投诉核心数字

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.

档案还纠正了哪些其他事项

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.

档案未能确定的事项

该校任何一年的实际支出金额。向送生机构收取的学费标准。克里斯蒂纳学区的教师是直接教授在校学生,还是仅为其他学区的教师提供指导。将该校归属于克里斯蒂纳学区的具体依据文件(如果存在的话)。当前按残障类别划分的安置数据。2014年《聋人教育工作组报告》——该州对此议题的最后一次官方审查——在网上无法找到。每一项都被记录为空白,而非被强行填补,其中若干项本可通过公共记录申请予以澄清。

特拉华州是该指数收录的第八个州,也是第八个表明各州在聋童教育方式上并无全国统一标准的案例。它所揭示的是一个关于可见性的具体教训。一所学校可以是公立的、有法律依据的、通过认证的,招生规模也保持稳定,却仍然可能在预算文件或安置数据集中无迹可寻。该指数存在的意义,正是要让这种“缺失”变得可以被察觉,一个州接一个州地揭示出来。

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.

引用方式

Grizzle, H. M. (2026, September 5). 特拉华州将聋人学校保留在一个地方学区内,却没有任何公开文件说明其成本. Novara Consulting Group. https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.23003313