STARS does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion or creed, sex (including pregnancy, gender, gender identity, and sexual orientation), national origin, age, socioeconomic status, language, disability or genetic information. No one shall be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any of STARS’ programs, services, trainings or activities.

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SERVICES FOR STUDENTS WHO ARE DEAF OR HARD OF HEARING (DHH) is a program of STARS designed to increase literacy skills, improve relationships, increase communication skills as well as to prevent the use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs among deaf or hard-of-hearing individuals through a variety of school, family and transition supports from kindergarten through early adulthood.

SCHOOL SUPPORT
Weekly classes are offered in Metro Nashville Public Schools, grades K-8. Topics include:

- Alcohol
- Tobacco
- Drugs
- Self-esteem
- Conflict resolution
- Anger management
- Problem-solving
- Decision-making
- Identifying feelings
- Communication skills
- Literacy

FAMILY SUPPORT
DHH offers one-on-one in-home family services, including:

- Teaching American Sign Language
- Counseling
- Resources
- Educational support

AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS
DHH offers services at after-school programs for deaf or hard-of-hearing students who are in grades K-12:

- Bridges-Mary McKinney Youth Center
- Brentwood Baptist Deaf Church
- Tennessee School for the Deaf

LITERACY PROGRAM
DHH works individually and in small groups with students who are deaf or hard of hearing to improve their reading comprehension, writing skills and sign language proficiency through Fairview Learning programs.

TRANSITION SUPPORT
Staff members work one on one with graduating high school seniors to create a transition plan out of high school. Services include:

- Interest Testing
- Researching and Applying to Colleges
- Paying for College
- Understanding Vocational Rehabilitation Services
- Understanding Your Rights
- Interviewing Skills
- Understanding Social Security Insurance
- Understanding the Benefit of Working

INDIVIDUAL CAREER PLANNING SERVICES
Services include interest testing, researching and applying to colleges, completing the FAFSA, and setting up vocational rehabilitation services.

These are no fees associated with these services for students and families.

80% of children who are deaf or hard of hearing are born to parents who can hear

ONLY 23% of those parents learn to communicate through American Sign Language

AFTER RECEIVING DHH SERVICES

57% of students showed an increase in their social coping skills and in their connectedness to peers or teachers

100% learned sign language through the program and showed a direct improvement in school

AWARDS
- National Council on Alcoholism & Drug Dependence Prevention and Education Meritorious Award
- Health Care Provider Award