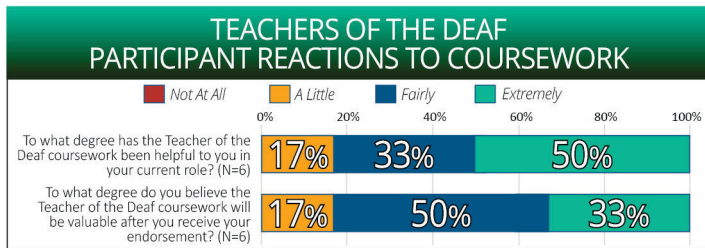


The **Kansas State Department of Education** (KSDE), through collaboration with the **Kansas School for the Deaf** and the **TASN Coordination** project, facilitates access to training to develop **Teachers of the Deaf** by offsetting tuition and books for a master's level teacher preparation program and providing onsite and virtual professional learning opportunities for educators across Kansas.

**TEACHERS OF THE DEAF COURSEWORK**

A high need for expertise in deaf or hard of hearing instructional practices has been identified, especially in rural and western Kansas. Through the Teachers of the Deaf program, the Kansas School for the Deaf Outreach Department strives to ensure that all students throughout Kansas who are deaf or hard of hearing receive the



specialized educational services needed to be successful. The Deaf Education coursework is available to licensed teachers across Kansas to expand their repertoire of instructional techniques for this population of students. Information on the Teachers of the Deaf program is disseminated annually to special education directors

across the state through digital and print media, as well as at regional special education directors' meetings and statewide conferences. The Deaf Education coursework is provided through partnerships with Valdosta State University in Georgia and Texas Woman's University, both of which provide candidates the opportunity to earn a master's degree in Deaf Education. To support this partnership, KSDE and the two participating universities have developed criteria for license reciprocity. Seven participants have thus far completed the program and are actively working as Teachers of the Deaf in Kansas. Seven additional individuals are currently participating in the program. In an annual survey, participants identified both the coursework and support as beneficial.

**100%**  
of participants  
who received support from the **KSD Outreach Team**  
were satisfied with the services provided

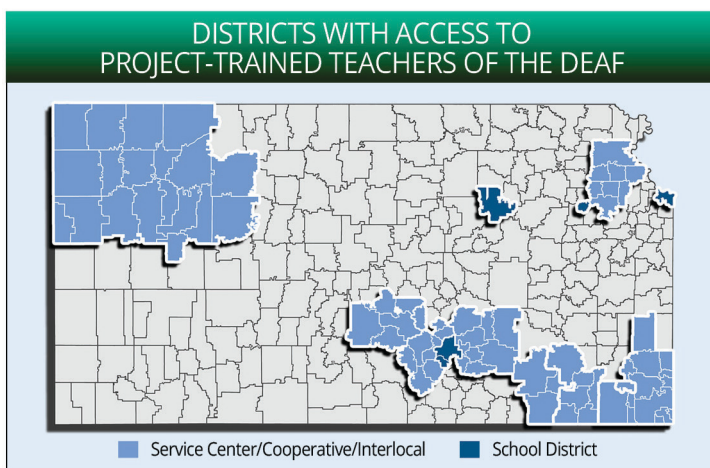
*"As I've worked through my courses, I've learned how to **synthesize my previous training and experience to new understandings as I adapt to the new role.**" – Project Participant*

**ONGOING PROFESSIONAL LEARNING**

Participants in the Teachers of the Deaf program were provided the opportunity to attend a virtual conference, *Supporting Success for Children With Hearing Loss*, and a professional development opportunity, *Implementing NASDSE Guidelines: Optimizing Outcomes for Students Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing*. The Implementing NASDSE Guidelines session was observed by a member of the TASN Evaluation Team, with trainers meeting 71% of indicators regarding high-quality professional development and 96% of participants mentioning at least one specific skill or practice from the training that they are going to implement. These opportunities allowed the educators to learn best practices in deaf education from leaders in the field, interact with deaf professionals, and relate NASDSE principles to their own districts using district-specific data to analyze how students are being served and what supports may be needed. All five participants who attended the conference rated the content as beneficial, noting that they learned helpful tools for itinerant teaching and concepts to use in their classroom.

**100%** of participants said that **conference content will benefit the students they serve**

**DEVELOPING EXPERTISE TO SERVE STUDENTS ACROSS KANSAS**



The Teachers of the Deaf program has increased the expertise of educators to provide needed services to students who are deaf and hard of hearing throughout the state. This map illustrates districts with access, either through the district or special education organization, to project participants who have completed or are in the process of attaining their endorsement.

The overall goal of the Teachers of the Deaf program is to ensure that students who are deaf or hard of hearing are provided with the specialized instruction they need while also expanding the teachers' repertoires of instructional practices to support an array of students. As participants progress through the coursework, their preparation and confidence increase. Teachers are encouraged to apply for the program by contacting [TOD@ksedb.org](mailto:TOD@ksedb.org).

*"We plan to **analyze our Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DHH) program and implement changes to improve services for our students with hearing loss. I plan to create more videos and presentations to provide learning opportunities for staff who are not familiar with students who have hearing loss.**" – Training Participant*