

The Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE), through collaboration with the Kansas School for the Deaf (KSD) 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. Additionally, KSD provides mentoring, on-site student teaching, and immersion experiences.



## TEACHERS OF THE DEAF TRAINING

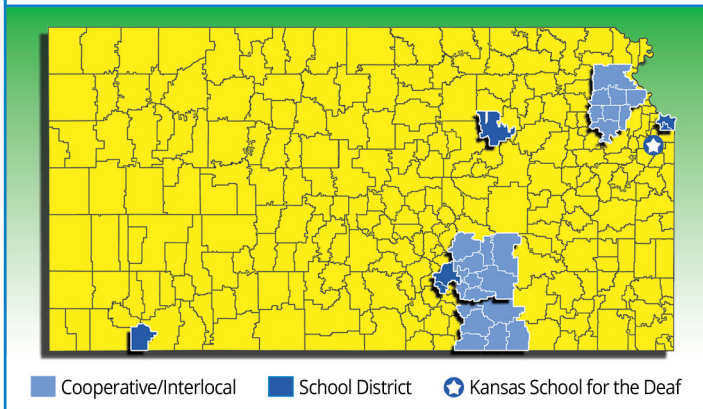
A high need for expertise in deaf/hard of hearing instructional practices has been identified, especially in rural and western Kansas. Through the Teachers of the Deaf project, the Kansas School for the Deaf strives to ensure that all students throughout Kansas who are deaf/hard of hearing receive the specialized educational services needed to be successful. The Deaf Education coursework is available to licensed teachers (general and/or special education) to expand their repertoire of instructional techniques to all information on the Teachers of the Deaf program was disseminated to all

*"The program and professors were very responsive to my current teaching role and gave me support and confidence to do a better job in my classroom."*

special education directors in 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 Texas Woman's University (Denton, TX) and Valdosta State University in Georgia both of which provide candidates an opportunity to earn a master's degree in Deaf Education. Support is also provided for students attending the University of Nebraska-Lincoln MPUP program. To support this partnership, KSDE and the two participating universities have developed criteria for license reciprocity. Four participants have thus far completed the program and are actively working as Teachers of the Deaf (TOD) in Kansas. Ten individuals are currently participating in the program, and four of these candidates are expected to complete the program during the 2019-2020 school year.

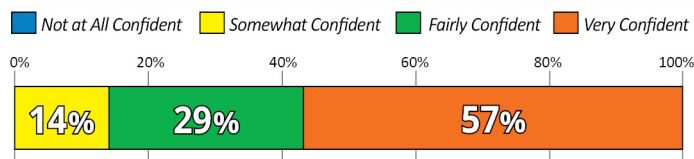
### TOD PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS



The Teachers of the Deaf project sent five candidates from the program to the Midwest Conference on Deaf Education in Sioux Falls, SD in June 2019 and one candidate attended the National Deaf Education Conference in Austin, TX in June 2019. These opportunities allowed the educators to learn best practices in deaf education from leaders in the field; interact with deaf professionals, utilizing both social and academic American Sign Language; and reflect on how this experience will better prepare them as Teachers of the Deaf in Kansas.

### HOW CONFIDENT/PREPARED DO YOU FEEL TO SUPPORT STUDENTS WHO ARE DEAF OR HARD OF HEARING?

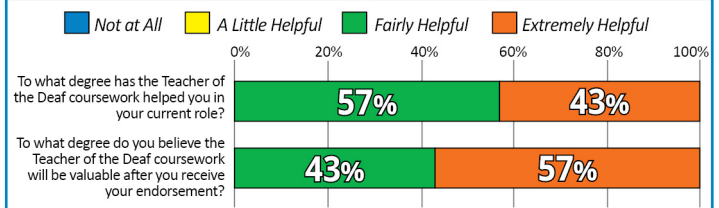
Percentage of Responses by Category from Seven Participants



*"I was able to choose the amount of classes each semester that fit me and my family. The timeframe in which I could finish my degree was flexible, so I didn't feel pressured to take on more than I could handle."*

### TOD PROGRAM SURVEY

Percentage of Responses by Category from Seven Participants



*"It has taught me all about the ear, the assistive technology and how to better support my students."*

The overall goal of the Teachers of the Deaf program is to ensure that students who are deaf/hard of hearing are provided with the specialized instruction that they need while also expanding the teachers' repertoires of instructional practices to support an array of students. Teachers can apply for the program by contacting Sarah Thompson at: [sthompson@kssdb.org](mailto:sthompson@kssdb.org) or [TOD@kssdb.org](http://TOD@kssdb.org).



LEARN MORE ABOUT THE PROGRAM AT  
[WWW.KSDTASN.ORG/TOD](http://WWW.KSDTASN.ORG/TOD)