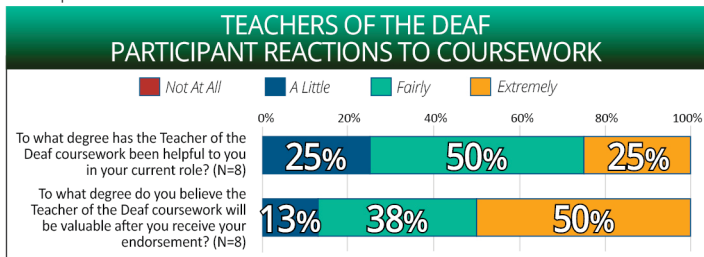


The **Kansas State Department of Education** (KSDE), through collaboration with the **Kansas School for the Deaf** and the **TASN Coordination** project, facilitates access to training to develop **Teachers of the Deaf** by offsetting tuition and books for a master's level teacher preparation program 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 each Kansas student who is deaf or hard of hearing receives 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. Twelve participants have thus far completed the program and are actively working as Teachers of the Deaf in Kansas. Nine additional individuals are actively participating in the program. In an annual survey, participants identified both the coursework and support from the Kansas School for the Deaf Outreach Team as beneficial.

"Without the support of the project, I never would have taken a risk to grow in my practice."
— Project Participant

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

ONGOING PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

A frequent request from participants is assistance in acquiring American Sign Language (ASL) that extends beyond the four semesters of coursework required. To address this need for further ASL opportunities, the Teachers of the Deaf program offered weekly ASL enrichment classes led by a professor from Wichita State University who is a licensed interpreter and Teacher of the Deaf. Instruction included vocabulary development, conversational skills, and basic bilingual strategies that would develop both the ASL and English skills of children and youth. Classes were conducted in "voice off" mode (no talking) to encourage participants to develop maximum fluency both receptively and expressively. Additionally, online workshops provided by Language First covered a variety of topics to guide Teachers of the Deaf and IEP teams across the state.

"I liked time to practice voice off with other people at a similar knowledge level. The teacher was very easy to understand, and she made sure we understood what was being said before she moved on."
— Project Participant

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. The 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. The program also expands the teachers' repertoires of instructional practices to support an array of students. Teachers are encouraged to apply for the program by contacting TOD@kssdb.org.

"I am extremely grateful for this program so I can further my knowledge to support my students in the best way I possibly can. This has helped expose me to new strategies I can apply in my classroom, as well as collaborate with TODs around the country to get their insight and ideas."
— Project Participant

DISTRICTS WITH ACCESS TO PROJECT-TRAINED TEACHERS OF THE DEAF

