



2021 Indiana School Hearing Screening FAQs

Q: Are school hearing screenings required for the 20-21 school year?

A: Per [Department of Education Memorandum: Hearing Screening Guidance During the COVID-19 Pandemic, November 9, 2020](#), hearing screening requirements remain in effect for all students of accredited public and accredited non-public schools for students in the required grades 1, 4, 7, and 10 (Per IC 20-34-3-14).

Q: Why is it important that screenings be completed?

A: The prevalence of reduced hearing increases as children get older; from 2-3 per 1,000 at birth to 4-5 per 1,000 at school age (National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey [NHANES]). This prevalence increases to 9-10 per 1,000 in teens, including 12% of children 12-19 years of age having documented noise-induced threshold shifts (NHANES). Hearing screening is often the first step to identify school-age children who need additional hearing evaluation. Delaying or not completing the screening may delay children from being identified and receive the services and accommodations they need to ensure equal access to education.

Q: Where can we get assistance for hearing screening?

A: Hearing screenings require specialized training; therefore, to reduce COVID-19 exposure, consider providing in-service and recruiting for other school staff to assist with hearing screenings, including classroom teachers, classroom assistants, Teachers of Deaf and Hard of Hearing, student teachers, and/or school nursing staff. In addition, consider contacting regional universities and other training programs who may have speech, language, and hearing or nursing students interested in assisting with school screenings. This can be a great opportunity for student volunteer hours!

Q: How do we screen students who are learning virtually?

A: Schools should work with parents to determine a time when students can come to school to obtain their hearing screening. No students should be required to complete a hearing screening if written objection by the parent/guardian is submitted to the proper school authority. ([Department of Education Memorandum: Hearing Screening Guidance During the COVID-19 Pandemic, November 9, 2020](#)).

Q: Who should be notified when a child does not pass the hearing screening?

A: Parents should be the first to be notified. They should be given information regarding the dates of the screenings, results, and instructions for follow up. Additionally, the teacher of deaf and hard of hearing should receive a list of names of students who did not pass the follow up screening to assist with explaining pertinent information to parents and following up as needed for students who may need special education services.