



Updates in Deaf Education

Autumn 2009

Center for Outreach Services

2009 Professional Development Opportunities

- [ASL Classes for Parents](#)
Intermediate: September 29—December 21
Basic ASL October 7—December 16
- **Educational Interpreter Ethics** (with OCRID) October 3, Columbus, Ohio
- [Cochlear Implants and Sign Language Online Seminar](#)
Session Full!
October 5—November 6
- **Language, Listening and Literacy: Building a Bridge of Consensus for Children with Hearing Loss**
Kent State University
November 13 (Registration Details to come soon)
- **Early Childhood and Deafness Conference**
March 26—27, 2010
Details coming!

The Center Events Calendar is updated frequently. Check our web at:
www.ohioschoolforthe deaf.org
Click on the [events link](#) under the Outreach tab.

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ASL Classes for Parents & Others: how to start a videoconference class Pg 1

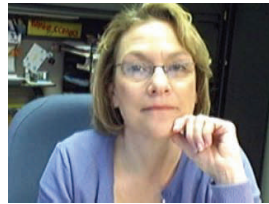
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Finding Opportunities: Making the best out of a tough situation



Notes from the Center [Pamela Brodie](#), Outreach Director

Every day there is news about Ohio's budget crisis. While the overall national economy seems to be picking up, Ohio is still feeling the effects of a huge deficit. Like every other state agency, OSD and the Center anxiously waited for news of the state budget for FY 2010. The Center is funded from OSD's General Operating Fund (GRF) and from federal

funds (IDEA Part B & C among others). Over the past two years, federal funding has decreased about 25%. OSD's GRF budget was reduced in FY09 and FY10, resulting in an 18% cut. New school construction continues because funds for construction come from Ohio School Facilities Commission through the tobacco settlement fund. While we were much more fortunate than many other agencies, the administration of OSD had to make some hard decisions regarding staffing and programs. Seventeen positions have been eliminated, and there will be additional layoffs this month. Overtime is

being restricted and extracurricular activities have also been reduced. Ironically, OSD's enrollment has increased (30 new students enrolled) at a time when resources are tight.

That has meant that there is less GRF funding available to support the Center, and we have to rely more on our federal funds for the Center's daily operating expenses. The news is not all grim though; this is an opportunity for us to look at the programs and services we provide, to ensure that we continue to provide quality services and make the most of the resources we have.
(Continued on page 2)

ASL via Videoconference: Looking for a few remote sites

Are there people in your district who are interested in learning sign language so they can communicate with a student who is deaf or hard of hearing?

Basic, Intermediate and Advanced classes in American Sign Language are available online! If your school has distance learning equipment, or there are facilities at a nearby school or ESC, that's all you need to start an ASL class. Classes can have as many students as your site can accommodate. Parents, grandparents, siblings age 10 and up, classroom teachers and caretakers may enroll. For more information, contact the Center at OutreachCenter@osd.oh.gov or call 614.995.1566 v/tty and ask to speak to someone about scheduling classes.



Here are some steps that we have already implemented:

- Newsletters and communications are distributed via web and email.
- Increased collaborative efforts with other entities to provide professional development; for example, the Center is collaborating with the Ohio Chapter of the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (OCRID) and Kent State University for upcoming workshops.
- Two vacant positions in the Center will not be filled, and staff have assumed duties of those positions.

We're confident that the steps we're taking will allow the Center to continue providing quality services to schools and families across the state.

- Positions that were supported by GRF dollars were moved into the federal fund.
- Purchases of supplies, materials for the State Library Deafness Collection and parent training materials are being tightly controlled.
- Outside of consultations and professional development, staff travel is limited.

We are looking at different ways of providing training and consultation; the Center has used videoconference and online learning environments in the past; we will be making more use of this technology in the future.

We're confident that the steps we're taking will allow us to continue providing services to districts and families across the state. The Center is seeking innovative ways to increase capacity while making best use of its resources.

Resources and News Items:

Communication Plan Sample Form Available

"The IEP must include a communication plan for children who are deaf or hard of hearing to address the appropriate language and communication needs, opportunities for direct communications with peers, and professional personnel in the child's language and communication mode, academic level, and full range of needs, including opportunities for direct instruction in the child's language and communication mode and assistive technology devices and services." (IEP PR-07 form Annotations 07/09)

The Center has received a few inquiries as to whether there is a particular form that can be used for a Communication Plan. To date, a standard form has not been adopted, and presently districts have been developing their own forms. The Center has developed a Communication Plan form; if you would a copy of the form to use/adapt, please contact us at OutreachCenter@osd.oh.gov.

State Library of Ohio Deafness Collection

As funding allows, we will increase resources in the State Library Deafness Collection. To make the best use of funds, the Center wants to add materials that have been vetted by professionals in the field. If you have resources to recommend for the collection at the State Library of Ohio, please send email to [Margaret Murphy](mailto:Margaret.Murphy@osd.oh.gov). Please include the title, author, publisher and a brief explanation of why the resource should be added.

Early Childhood Conference March 2010:

The Conference theme is *Supporting the Social-Emotional Development of Young Children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing and their Families*.

Confirmed speakers for the March 2010 Early Childhood & Deafness Conference are:

- **Dr. Irene Leigh**, Gallaudet University. Dr. Leigh's topic is *Psycho-Social Development of Children with Cochlear Implants*
- **Janet Des Georges**, National Hands and Voices Outreach Director. Ms. Des Georges topics are *Is This a Deaf Thing?* and *The Importance of Involving Deaf Adults in the Lives of Hearing Families*.

More information will appear in the next issue of *Updates*.

A community of practice starts with YOU! If you have information you would like to share for this column, please send it to the Editor at: OutreachCenter@osd.oh.gov.

We are seeking examples of best practice on:

- Deafness and Autism
- Transition from Early Learning to K-12
- Addressing services in rural areas
- Examples of inter-agency collaboration

Do you have an issue you'd like to address in a collegial forum? Please contact us!

Assessment Services for Students through the Center for Outreach Services

The Center for Outreach Services provides FREE multidisciplinary educational assessments for students who are deaf or hard of hearing attending any school in Ohio.

Making educational decisions is easier when IEP teams have evaluation information that is based on sound assessment practices. In the case of children who are deaf or hard of hearing, communication barriers pose challenges in collecting an accurate picture of a student's cognitive, social and emotional status. The Center's Evaluation Team is comprised of specialists who are knowledgeable about deafness and skilled in sign language.

The multidisciplinary assessment includes the following components:

- educational assessment
- psychological assessment
- audiological assessment
- communication assessment (including speech and sign language use)
- other special areas of investigation as needed

Assessment instruments are administered by the specialists using the student's primary mode of communication (spoken English, sign language, gesture, etc.), unless it is clearly not possible to do so.

Tests are validated for the specific purpose intended and evaluators follow procedures in accordance with test instructions. In instances when it is not feasible to follow procedures with

a student, the evaluator will use their professional judgment to modify the assessment to yield the best estimate of the child's ability and document the modifications.

During a meeting with the family and school personnel in attendance, evaluation results and recommendations are shared and there is an opportunity to ask questions.

An Evaluation Team Report (ETR) is completed providing written test information, assessment results and recommendations. The report is

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sent to the Superintendent of the student's local school district and the parents.

Testing is usually conducted at the Center for Outreach Services at the Ohio School for the Deaf in Columbus. In some situations travel is not practical, or on-site assessment of a student may be more appropriate, or only one area of assessment is necessary. In circumstances like these, individual team members are available to go to the student's school program to observe and/or test the student.

School districts or parents can contact the Center for Outreach Services to request an assessment.

The Center for Outreach Services will send a referral packet to gather information

from the school district and family.

Upon completion and return of the referral packet, an appointment date is set and shared with both the school district and parents.

Specialists use the information gathered in the referral packet to determine which assessments to prepare.

Guest rooms may be available at no cost for families who choose to come to campus the night before testing.

In addition to testing the student, team members will obtain a case history during an interview with the family members. After the assessments are complete, the team of specialists will confer. Team members meet with the parents and school district to share results and recommendations

Our team of specialists includes an audiologist, teacher of the deaf, speech-language pathologist, American Sign Language specialist, psychologist and nurse. To learn more about educational assessments available through the Center for Outreach Services, please contact Mrs. Barbara Stahl by calling 614.728.4070 v/tty or send Mrs. Stahl email at stahl@osd.oh.gov.

Center for Outreach Services Program Highlights: Professional Development & Communities of Practice Online

The Center for Outreach Services regularly offers online learning seminars for interpreters, parents, educators, service providers and others. Online learning can be a great way for individuals involved in deaf education, who are generally isolated geographically, to connect with others who are experiencing similar issues and challenges across Ohio. The sustained nature of an on-going seminar allows participants to immediately apply what they are learning and then return for further discussion. The increased availability of technology like web cameras makes it easier to communicate via sign language. Plus online learning is convenient for many people with busy lives. Online learning can be a convenient

"I just want to say how much I have preferred this method of learning vs. a one day workshop. I learn so much more because of the participation requirement. Also I think the length of the class (many weeks vs. one day) helps the information stick with you. It is great also because it gives everyone a fair chance to participate and be heard." ~ Past participant

and interactive way to learn. But is it right for you? Being successful and enjoying online learning takes:

- Basic skill and comfort with computers
- Willingness to share your thoughts and ideas
- Learning independently
- Expressing yourself clearly in writing
- Asking questions when you need clarification
- Committing the time to fully participate
- Self-discipline

At the Center for Outreach Services,

we use two main platforms for online learning, Moodle and Adobe Connect. [Moodle](#) is an online course management program similar to Blackboard. [Adobe Connect](#) is a tool for having a meeting over the internet where



each user is at their personal computer. Participants simply click a web link to join a meeting. Moodle and Adobe Connect are both web-based programs so participants do not need to purchase special software for their computers.

Participants in our online learning seminars need:

- An active email address
- A computer (PC or Mac) to use on a regular basis with:
 - internet access** (high speed access is not always required but it makes participating in seminars much less time consuming)
 - a program for viewing pdf files**, such as *Adobe Reader* (this can be downloaded for free). For some seminars, you will need **a program for viewing videos**, such as *QuickTime* (again, this can be downloaded for free).

For some seminars, a webcam is essential to communicate via sign language and participate more fully in Adobe Connect meetings. For quality sufficient for sign language, a webcam with 30 fps (frames per second) is preferable.

Staff Spotlight:

Carrie Thompson-Davenport

Early Childhood Consultant



Carrie Thompson-Davenport, M.A., is the Early Childhood Outreach Consultant for the Center for Outreach Services. She received a B.S. in Deaf Education (K-12) from Bowling Green State University and earned a Master's degree in Deaf Education, specializing in Family-Centered Early Education, from Gallaudet University in Washington, DC. In 2006, she completed the Educational Consultant Training Program in Cochlear Implants through the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and Smith College. This intensive six-week graduate level training included clinical work at the California Ear Institute in Palo Alto, as well as practicum at the Jean Weingarten Peninsula Oral School for the Deaf in Redwood. Prior to joining the staff at OSD, Carrie taught in a self-contained pre-k/kindergarten class for deaf and hard of hearing children in Prince George's Country, Maryland.

For more information about online learning events Check out Upcoming Events information online at:

<http://www.ohioschoolforthe deaf.org/outreachevents.aspx>

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Communication...Consultation...Collaboration

www.ohioschoolforthe deaf.org/outreach.aspx

Readers may submit articles via email. Send articles and information to OutreachCenter@osd.oh.gov. Submissions may be edited.

Updates in Deaf Education is published quarterly in January, April, July and October by the Center for Outreach Services. The editor is Pamela Brodie. All issues are available on our website; to visit the newsletter archive, [click here](#). If you wish to receive email notification of new editions, join our mailing list. Contact us or visit our website for more information. Information in this newsletter is gathered from a variety of sources. The Center for Outreach Services does not endorse workshops or materials unless specifically stated.

Help us keep up the website

If you are on the Outreach website and find that a link doesn't work or you get unexpected results when you go to a page, please let us know by sending email to OutreachCenter@osd.oh.gov

Center for Outreach Services

What we do:

The Center for Outreach Services provides support, assistance and resources to educators, interpreters, parents and school districts who work with learners who are deaf and hard-of-hearing in Ohio's public schools. We provide services to learners, families and schools using any communication mode, including both visual and auditory methods.

Our mission...

Share and promote best practices in education among all educational partners serving deaf, deafblind and hard-of-hearing learners in Ohio.

Alternate Assessment based on Modified Achievement

Standards (AA-MAS or 2%): by Wendy Stoica, Office of Assessment, Ohio Department of Education

The Ohio Department of Education is the lead state in a multi-state consortium with Minnesota, Oregon and the American Institutes for Research (AIR) that received a federal grant to develop an Alternate Assessment based on Modified Achievement Standards (AA-MAS or 2%).

The Office of Assessment and Office for Exceptional Children are seeking districts to participate in a field test of Reading and mathematics in March 2010. We are in the process of identifying districts who are interested and obtaining a contact person so we can confirm participation in early December. The administration window for the field test of students with disabilities in grades 5-8 & OGT is March 1-26,

2010. This is a paper-pencil assessment with Reading and Mathematics in one consumable test booklet, no separate answer document. The tests are divided into sections so students may complete each test over several days as needed. Students participating in the field test are required to participate in OATs and OGTs and no test data will be provided to the district on specific student performance. Students with disabilities who receive assessment accommodations for statewide testing may use those accommodations for the AA-MAS. Please contact Wendy Stoica, Office of Assessment, at 614-466-0223 or wendy.stoica@ode.state.oh.us for more information or to indicate interest. More information, including eligibility guidelines for

IEP teams, is available at the ODE website. □

Check out the latest issue of *Signals!*

The Center also publishes *Signals*, a newsletter for educational interpreters. In the Autumn issue:

Using Oral Translation Scripts for Statewide Assessments

Educational Interpreter Working Conditions Survey Results: Compensation for Extracurricular Activities

Problem Solving: Dealing with Student Apathy

And much more! To see recent and back issues of *Signals* click on this link:

