

# PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS WITH HEARING IMPAIRMENTS



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The Southern Westchester BOCES Program for Students with Hearing Impairments provides a variety of specialized learning environments from kindergarten through high school. This program, established in 1968, is integrated within the Blind Brook School District, in Rye Brook, NY. The program accepts students whose combination of hearing loss, communication styles and academic needs cannot be adequately met in their home school district.

Students have the opportunity to participate in general education classes and in small specialized classes, depending on their needs. Support includes:

- Specially trained, experienced and dedicated professionals committed to helping students maximize their potential
- Certified teachers of the deaf, teacher assistants, adult note takers and speech pathologists
- Consulting audiologist and consulting school psychologist
- Sign language interpreters/tutors
- Learning centers for pre-teaching and re-teaching

Small, specialized classes taught by teachers of the deaf are available in all academic areas for students not yet ready for the challenges of the general education environment.

The educational program is committed to the development of the student's creative and critical thinking skills, confidence and personal responsibility. Students needing speech and/or school counseling services may have these needs addressed during their school day by speech and language therapists and the school

psychologist. These additional services must be approved by a student's home school district.

All after school activities in the Blind Brook School District are open to students in the BOCES Program who have the skills necessary for participation. This includes sports programs, clubs and theater groups. Sign language interpreters are available for after school activities. Transportation arrangements are made by a student's home school district or the student's family.

## ELEMENTARY, MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAMS:

The elementary school program is located at Ridge Street Elementary School. The middle school program (grades 6-8) is located at Blind Brook Middle School and the high school program (grades 9-12) is located at Blind Brook High School, on the same campus. All programs provide customized educational environments tailored to meet the communication and learning needs of each student. Students are integrated in a general education environment based on their needs, as outlined in their Individualized Education Program (IEP).

The students are supported by a continuum of services. The degree to which a student is integrated is based on his or her academic and social level of functioning. A teacher of the deaf supports all academic instruction in both our specialized class and general education class settings. Emphasis is placed on English Language Arts instruction throughout the day. The teacher of the deaf works collaboratively with general education teachers. Instructional and testing accommodations indicated on a student's IEP are followed carefully.

Arrangements can be made for the following services:

- Sign Language Interpreters for mainstream classes and after school activities
- Speech and language therapy
- Auditory/Verbal Training
- Individual/Group Counseling Support Services
- Occupational Education Services

The use of technology creates a visual learning environment. Classroom sound field systems are utilized throughout the school. Each student is fitted with his or her own personal FM system. A consulting audiologist is available to assist students.

The program provides an environment for a deaf child that fosters social and academic growth, while supporting the development of language and communication skills, allowing students to flourish in this type of nurturing, language-rich environment.

## SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS:

Sign Language Interpreters are available for students in general education classes as needed. Interpreters use the signed method and language structures appropriate to facilitate student learning and participation in class. Interpreters provide sign language interpretation of lessons, sign support for students using residual hearing or cochlear implants, as well as in-class assistance. Sign language interpreters also tutor students in Learning Centers designed to support the work done in general education classes.

*To obtain more information or to arrange for an appointment for an initial consultation, call:*

914•948•7271

Southern Westchester BOCES



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