

Utah school-age hearing screening protocol

The goal of a successful school hearing screening program is to identify children who may be deaf or hard of hearing, which in turn leads to appropriate referrals for further audiological and/or medical evaluation. Early identification of hearing loss and appropriate management can improve a child's language & cognitive development, and educational performance (Yoshinaga-Itano, 1995). While the universal newborn hearing screening program has proven successful in early identification of hearing loss in children, there is a continued need for early childhood and school-aged hearing screening due to late-onset and progressive hearing loss, as well as fluctuating conductive hearing loss due to middle ear fluid. Unidentified hearing loss may impact a student's overall academic achievement, communication, and social-emotional development. School hearing screening is required by law in Utah Code [53G-9-402](#). IDEA Part B Child Find includes hearing screening to identify students with a disability so they can receive a free appropriate public education (FAPE).

School-age is defined as:

- a) Any young child, ages 3-5 years old, enrolled in Part B preschool services
- b) Any student ages 5-21 years old

Late-onset or progressive hearing loss may occur due to the follow risk factors:

- NICU > 5 days
- Family history of hearing loss in childhood and genetic disorders, such as Connexin 26 mutations
- Non-syndromic progressive sensorineural hearing loss
- Infectious diseases such as Cytomegalovirus (in utero), meningitis or measles
- Syndromes associated with hearing loss such as Down, Usher, Waardenburg, etc.
- Craniofacial anomalies (cleft lip/palate; atresia; microtia)
- Disorders such as enlarged vestibular aqueduct
- Exposure to loud noise or music (dependent upon intensity and duration of noise/music exposure)

Who should be screened for hearing loss?

- All students new to the school district
- Annually, all students from Kindergarten to 3rd grade
- All students in the 7th grade
- All students in the 11th grade
- New entrants to school who do not have records of passing a hearing screening
- Annually, all students in a special education program (including Part B preschool services)
- Any student in which parent or school personnel suspect a hearing loss

Who should not be screened for hearing loss?

- Any student who wears hearing aids or cochlear implants
- For the above, follow-up with parents is recommended to ensure the student is under the care of a physician and/or audiologist

Hearing screening may be completed via:

- Pure-tone screening Screen at 1000 Hz, 2000 Hz, 4000 Hz at 20 dBHL
 - Include 6000 Hz for 7th & 11th grades to rule-out noise induced hearing loss
 - This is the gold standard for hearing screening
- Or, Otoacoustic emissions (OAEs) may be utilized. OAEs will provide a PASS or FAIL result. OAEs are recommended for students who are unable to complete traditional pure-tone screening (i.e., young age, developmental and/or physical disability preventing accurate responses). Note: OAEs are not a replacement for students who can complete pure-tone screening

Some programs may choose to offer an extended screening¹, in addition to the above testing. These procedures should be overseen by an audiologist. Below are options to supplement the hearing screening process:

- Tympanometry¹ should be performed on all students who fail the rescreen. A "Fail" is any tympanogram in which peak admittance is < 0.2 mmho or tympanometric width greater than 200 daPa
- Otoscopy¹ performed on all failed tympanograms to determine the presence of excessive cerumen, otitis media, tympanic membrane perforation and/or pressure equalization tubes
- Screening results and referral sent home recommending follow-up with pediatrician/primary care provider on day of rescreening if OM or TM perforation present

Hearing screening Pass and Fail criteria

- "Pass" → Student must respond appropriately to all pitches (frequencies) at the screening level 20 dBHL in BOTH ears. For OAEs, the equipment will show a "pass" result.
- "Fail" → No response to any pitch (frequency) at 20 dBHL in either ear. For OAEs, the equipment will show a "fail" or "refer" result.
 - A rescreen should take place within 4 – 6 weeks.

- CNT (could not test) → lack of cooperation or unable to condition to the screening task. 'CNT' cannot be the final result for Child Find activities. Rescreen again in 1-2 weeks or refer to the school district audiologist, or Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind (if applicable).

Follow-up after two failed hearing screenings

- Send screening results home and recommend the student be seen by an audiologist
 - School District audiologist
 - USDB Audiology
 - Clinical audiologist with expertise in testing children

References

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (1997). Guidelines for Audiologic Screening. <http://www.asha.org/PRPPrintTemplate.aspx?folderid=8589935406>

American Academy of Audiology Clinical Practice Guidelines: Childhood Hearing Screening (2011). <https://www.audiology.org/practice-guideline/clinical-practice-guidelines-childhood-hearing-screening/>

Bower C, Reilly BK, Richerson J, et al. (2023); AAP Committee on Practice & Ambulatory Medicine. Hearing Assessment in Infants, Children, and Adolescents: Recommendations Beyond Neonatal Screening. *Pediatrics*. 2023;152(3):e2023063288. <https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2023-063288>

(2019). Year 2019 Position Statement: Principles and Guidelines for Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Programs. *Journal of Early Hearing Detection and Intervention*, 4(2), 1-44. <https://doi.org/10.15142/fptk-b748>

Kooper, R. (2008) "Screening, Evaluation, and Management of Hearing Loss in the School-Aged Child" in Madell, J. R., & Flexer, C. (2008 Eds.), *Pediatric Audiology: Diagnosis, Technology, and Management*

Prieve, B. A., Schooling, T., Venediktov, R., and Frandeschini, N. (2015) "An Evidence-Based Systematic Review on the Diagnostic Accuracy of Hearing Screening Instruments for Preschool- and School-Age Children. *American Journal of Audiology*. https://doi.org/10.1044/2015_AJA-14-0065

Roush, J. & Corbin, N. (2017) "Screening for Hearing Loss and Middle Ear Disorders: Beyond the Newborn Period" in Tharpe, A.M. & Seewald, R. (2017 Eds.), *Comprehensive Handbook of Pediatric Audiology*

Utah Code

Effective 5/3/2023

53G-9-402. Rules for examinations prescribed by the Department of Health and Human Services
-- Notification of impairment.

- (1) (a) Each local school board shall implement policies **as prescribed by the Department of Health and Human Services** for vision, dental, abnormal spinal curvature, and hearing examinations of students attending the district's schools.
 - (b) Under **guidelines of the Department of Health and Human Services**, qualified health professionals shall provide instructions, equipment, and materials for conducting the examinations.
 - (c) The policies shall include exemption provisions for students whose parents contend the examinations violate their personal beliefs.
- (2) The school shall notify, in writing, a student's parent of any impairment disclosed by the examinations.

Amended by Chapter [328](#), 2023 General Session

Utah school district audiologists

Note: This list is current as of 5.1.24. Please email swnek@utah.gov with any known updates.

Cache County School District

Steve Jensen steven.jensen@ccsdut.org

Makynzie Larsen Makynzie.Larsen@ccsdut.org

Logan School District

Steve Jensen – steven.jensen@loganschools.org

Makynzie Larsen makynzie.larsen@loganschools.org

*You can email both the ccsdut.org and loganschool.org email addresses. They are contracted for both school districts.

Ogden School District - None - USDB

Weber School District - 23-24 school year USDB – Devin Christensen

Davis School District

Josh Roylance jroylance@dmail.net

Tooele School District - USDB – Barrett Ray

Salt Lake School District

Kylie Madsen kylie.madsen@slcschools.org

Granite School District - 2500 S State St; Rm - Special Services; 385-646-1284

Paige Morisak pemorisak@graniteschools.org

Mandy Smith mjsmith@graniteschools.org

Canyons School District – 23-24 school year USDB

Jordan School District

Lynette Roper lynette.roper@jordandistrict.org

Jenny Pedersen Jenny.Pedersen@jordandistrict.org

Melanie Hill melanie.hill@jordandistrict.org

Cailey Mortensen cailey.mortensen@jordandistrict.org

Sadie Schilaty sadie.schilaty@jordandistrict.org

Alpine School District

Alison Ediger aediger@alpinedistrict.org

Utah Department of Health and Human Services
Office of Children with Special Healthcare Needs
801-273-6600 ehdi@utah.gov

Provo School District

Jeremy Jenkins jeramyj@provo.edu

Nebo School District

Candi Bown candi.bown@nebo.edu

[Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind – Audiological Services](#)

If your school district is not listed, or you have questions regarding audiological services, referrals, or loaner hearing aids, contact Sarah Owens at saraho@usdb.org.

Devin Christensen	devinc@usdb.org	(Ogden Campus)
Barrett Ray	barretr@usdb.org	(Salt Lake Campus)
Sarah Owens	saraho@usdb.org	(telework)
Janeal Belnap	janealb@usdb.org	(Utah County)
Stefani Watson	stefaniw@usdb.org	(St. George Campus)
Samantha Snow	samanthas@usdb.org	(Salt Lake Campus)
Tyler Sorensen	tylers@usdb.org	(Ogden Campus)