

Alice Cogswell and Anne Sullivan Macy Act Provisions Specific to Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students

The Alice Cogswell and Anne Sullivan Macy Act, [H.R. 1959](#), [S. 813](#), would amend the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) to better serve deaf, blind, and deafblind students. To that end, there are some provisions that align across all three groups.

In addition, there are some provisions unique to each group. For deaf and hard of hearing students, the Cogswell-Macy Act would:

- Emphasize language development in educational evaluations and outcomes:
 - Spoken language with or without visual supports
 - American Sign Language
 - English literacy.
- Protect the “continuum of alternative placements,” including specialized classes and schools designed for deaf and hard of hearing students.
- Early intervention:
 - Define “natural environments” to include specialized settings emphasizing language acquisition
 - Include teachers of the deaf as qualified personnel providing services
 - Require the Individualized Family Service Plan to focus on the infant or toddler’s language acquisition opportunities.
- Personnel:
 - Require educational interpreter training programs funded by the U.S. Department of Education to produce licensed interpreters
 - Require special educator training programs funded by the U.S. Department of Education to include teachers of the deaf and deaf education early interventionists.
- Change the current IDEA term “hearing impaired,” which is disfavored, to “deaf or hard of hearing.”

Contact:
Barbara Raimondo
Conference of Educational Administrators
of Schools and Programs for the Deaf
ceasd@ceasd.org www.ceasd.org
www.cogswellmacyact.org