

HEARING PROGRAM: INFORMATION FOR TEACHERS

Loss of hearing exacts a great toll on child development. It is essential that schools establish a program that will locate those children with hearing defects as near to the onset of the hearing difficulty as possible; that these children receive immediate care and that the school program for the child with hearing problems be adjusted as is appropriate. EARLY DISCOVERY OF A HEARING PROBLEM IS THE KEY TO SUCCESSFUL REMEDIATION.

Hearing testing is mandated by Ed. Code Sections 49451, 49452, 44879 and Title 17 of the California Administrative Code. An annual report shall be submitted by June 30 to the California State Department of Health Services Hearing Conservation Specialist with copies to the district and county superintendents of schools. (state form PM 100 - example next page).

Who will be tested:

1. All students in grades K or 1, 2, 5, 8, 10 or 11, new students, special education, previously identified hearing problems and referrals.
2. Students in special education, resource and speech and language programs should be screened when enrolled into the program and at least every three years thereafter.
3. Teachers are encouraged to coordinate hearing testing with education concerning ears, hearing or sound. Please consult with your media center regarding films and videos on these subjects.

How to Prepare:

4. For younger students, pre-school through 2nd grade, or students who speak a foreign language, the testing procedure should be explained beforehand and the students are given the opportunity to practice with the audio tape, classroom teacher or nurse.

Testing day:

5. Your school nurse will schedule and coordinate the actual testing times between the classrooms and the mobile van. Please be prepared to be interrupted and be ready to bring or send your class to the test area when notified.

Follow Up:

6. It is the responsibility of the school nurse to either refer directly or do follow-up referral in three weeks to the parents if medical evaluation is recommended. Results should be recorded in the student's health record.