

Eligibility Categories for Special Education Under IDEA and Chapter 60

Deaf or Hard of Hearing (HH)

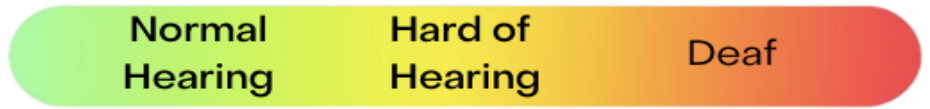
While Hawaii's Chapter 60 uses the terms **Deaf** and **Hard of Hearing (HH)** to describe hearing loss in children that requires special education and related services, the federal law, IDEA, uses the dated terms **Deafness** and **Hearing Impairment**.



Degree of Hearing Loss

The difference between an eligibility determination of **Deaf** and one of **Hard of Hearing** relates to the severity of the child's hearing loss. Below are the hearing ranges:

0 - 25 dB* 26 - 70 dB* 71 or more dB*



*In the speech frequencies (500 Hz-4000Hz)



An exam by a hearing specialist or audiologist is needed to provide evidence of the hearing loss.

The home school may be able to assist families who are unable to access an exam.

Terms Used in Determining Eligibility for Deaf/HH

Auditory Processing: what our brain does with what we hear

Decibel (dB): a unit of measuring how loud or intense a sound needs to be for a child to hear it

Decoding: how well our brain quickly and accurately takes in speech and processes information

Frequency: the different pitches of sound measured in Hertz (Hz) indicating how fast sound waves are vibrating

Other data that is gathered may include:



The child's medical history



Input from family members,



Teacher reports and student work samples,



Observation of listening skills at school or in a natural setting, and



Measures of self-help skills.

Eligibility Standards

After hearing loss has been documented, the child must show evidence of either **processing delays** OR **adverse effect**.

1 The hearing loss results in delays in auditory processing of speech and language in the areas of:



Speaking



Reading



Writing



Listening

2 The hearing loss adversely affects performance in the present educational setting or natural environment.