



Issue:

There is a need to expand capacity to address increases in the numbers of students requiring deaf and hard of hearing (DHH) services.

Background:

The number of students requiring deaf and DHH services (Service Code 710) has increased significantly over the past four years:

School Year	# of Students Receiving Service Code 710
2014-15	15
2015-16	42
2016-17	48
2017-18	58

**These numbers do not include DHH services provided to infants (0-3) who are not accounted for in SEIS. There are currently eight infants receiving specialized DHH services not included in this year's total.*

Additional Assessment Requirements:

A specialized DHH teacher is required for initial and triennial assessments of students who are deaf or hard of hearing (EC 56320(g) and EC 56327(h)). In addition to this requirement, SB-210 requires additional language assessments to be completed and reported to the CDE (every 6 months) for children ages 0-5 who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Serving Student(s) with Significant Needs:

Our itinerant low incidence service model requires specialized services be delivered to students in their neighborhood schools and/or county regionalized programs. Services are individualized and range from daily, weekly, monthly and yearly. There is currently a student in our county who requires 3 hours of specialized DHH services daily.

Current Staffing:

EDCOE currently has 1.0 FTE DHH Teacher and 6.0 hours/day Bilingual (ASL) Signing Aide to provide all necessary low incidence services to students with a primary or secondary eligibility of deaf or hard of hearing. In addition to this, EDCOE has funded a part-time (0.5 FTE) retired DHH teacher (2016 to present) to supplement the currently funded staffing through the Allocation Plan.



Recommendations:

Increase staffing of DHH teacher by 1.0 FTE to meet the needs of DHH students effective 2018-19 to total 2.0 FTE. This increase would provide funding for the 0.5 FTE currently being provided outside of the Allocation Plan. This would increase the capacity of the DHH team's ability to address growth in the number of students who require specialized DHH services and cover the additional ongoing assessments required by SB210.

A DHH teacher is considered a Severely Handicapped unit as defined in the Allocation Plan, which assigns a specific dollar amount to each unit. Approval of this request to add 1.0 FTE would increase the Regional Program share of AB 602 base funding by \$98,288 with a corresponding decrease in the AB 602 base funding share directed to districts beginning 2018-19. This equates to approximately \$4.54/ADA.