

# Effects of Parent Expectations and Parent Involvement on Postschool Outcomes for Deaf Individuals



Summary of Cawthon et al., "Effects of Parent Expectations and Parent Involvement on Postschool Outcomes for Individuals Who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing"<sup>1</sup>

## Why was this work done?

- Parents play a critical role in their child's development through high school and the transition to postsecondary school and work settings.
- How parents communicate their expectations to their children also plays an important role in long-term outcomes for students.
- Few studies look at how parental role and expectations affect transition for deaf students.

"[Deaf] individuals often exceed their parents' expectations of positive postsecondary outcomes."

## How was this work done?

- Researchers used data from the National Longitudinal Transition Study 2 (NLTS2).
- Statistical analyses assessed whether parent involvement in school and expectations for their child's future predicted outcomes in life, employment, and education. Specific outcomes included the following:
  - Life – Living independently and having self-beliefs
  - Employment – Having a job, earning an hourly wage, and enjoying job satisfaction
  - Education – Enrolling in and completing any postsecondary program

## What did researchers find?

Parental expectations emerged as an important contributor to long-term outcomes, but parental involvement did not.

- A parent's expectation of their child to live independently increased the likelihood that their child would get a job and live independently after high school.
- A parent's expectation of their child to be employed increased the likelihood that their child would enroll in college.
- A parent's expectation of their child to attend college increased the likelihood that their child would complete college.

## What are important next steps?

- How do parents effectively communicate their expectations to their deaf children?
- How do schools help deaf individuals build on their parent's expectations and reach even higher levels of success?

<sup>1</sup>Cawthon, S., Garberoglio, C. L., Caemmerer, J., Bond, M., & Wendel, E. (2015). Effects of parent expectations and parent involvement on postschool outcomes for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing. *Exceptionality*, 23(2). doi:10.1080/09362835.2013.865537



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