

Assessing English Literacy as a Predictor of Postschool Outcomes in the Lives of Deaf Individuals

RS
Research
Summarized

Summary of Cawthon et al., "Assessing English literacy as a predictor of postschool outcomes in the lives of deaf individuals"¹

Why was this work done?

- Deaf adults often do not experience success on the same level as the general population in life, employment, and education.
- It is unclear exactly how English literacy influences life for deaf adults, particularly school-based literacy.
- It is often proposed that deaf adults experience negative outcomes because of low English literacy skills.

"Deaf students may not always master traditional school-based measures of English literacy, but these literacy practices are specific to the school environment and are not reflective of the lived experience of literacy for deaf individuals."

How was this work done?

- Data came from the 2000–2010 National Longitudinal Transition Study–2 (NLTS2), which collected information from over 1,000 deaf students about their experiences in high school and afterwards.
- Statistical analyses assessed whether or not those deaf students' English skills, as measured in high school by standardized tests, predicted outcomes in life, employment, and education. Specific outcomes included the following:
 - Life – Living independently and having positive self-beliefs
 - Employment – Having a job, earning an hourly wage, and enjoying job satisfaction
 - Education – Enrolling in and completing any postsecondary program

Does English literacy predict success?

- Standardized measures of English literacy did predict some of the outcomes, but to differing degrees.
- English literacy skills predicted the following:
 - Living independently and more positive self-beliefs
 - Higher hourly wages, but not employment or job satisfaction
 - College enrollment, but not college completion
- Yet, when significant, literacy did not predict a large amount of variation in the above outcomes.

¹Garberoglio, C. L., Cawthon, S., & Bond, M. (in press). Assessing English literacy as a predictor of postschool outcomes in the lives of deaf individuals. *Journal of Deaf Studies and Deaf Education*.



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What do these results mean, overall?

- English literacy may not be a comprehensive predictor of successful adult life experiences for deaf individuals.
- Standardized measures of English literacy do not fully capture how deaf individuals navigate the world.



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