

Closing Education Gaps for Deaf Students

Improvement Science and the Research-to-Practice Connection

National Deaf Center on Postsecondary Outcomes • nationaldeafcenter.org



Coherent, Multidimensional Approach



The National Deaf Center on Postsecondary Outcomes (NDC) uses improvement science to support states in the development and implementation of accessible services for deaf youth.

One example is NDC's **Engage for Change** | state initiative, which emphasizes partnerships between special education and vocational rehabilitation agencies. This systems-level work seeks to reduce barriers for deaf students as they navigate the transition from secondary to postsecondary training, education, and work experiences.

NDC links resources and activities to provide a coherent, multidimensional approach to supporting stakeholders in making the research-to-practice connection.

Research-to-Practice Example: Summer Programming

Research Summary

NDC developed a research summary about why summer programming is an important activity for deaf youth. This document serves not only as an advocacy tool for stakeholders seeking funding, but also as a way to identify focus areas for summer programming.



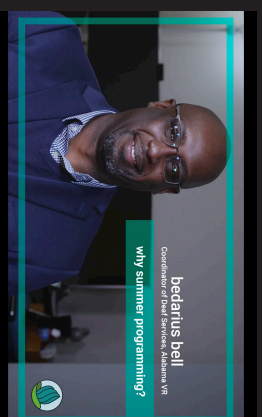
Deaf Community Interviews

NDC interviewed and collected stories of deaf individuals who participated in summer programming and the impact it had on them. These videos feature strong diversity and storytelling about the nuances that are important to remember when serving this diverse population.



Interviews of State Agency Colleagues

State and national leaders with experience in the area contributed their own perspectives and experiences on how to launch and sustain summer programming activities.



Online Learning Platform

NDC created an online class to facilitate peer engagement using the above resources. This class included opportunities to collaborate with state and national leaders to develop measures of success for users' own contexts.

