

Deaf Success in Fall 2020: Guide for Families, Parents, and Students

Fall 2020 brings many questions for your deaf youth's education and future. Our research shows **family support is so important!**¹ While there is a great deal of uncertainty now and in the months ahead, we encourage families to use **ways to connect**² with their deaf teenager, look for opportunities to seek **community**³ support, and advocate for their equal access **guaranteed by law**⁴ to all learning opportunities.

This guide has key strategies to support deaf success with your child during Fall 2020 and beyond.

KEY STRATEGIES

Plan for the Future



- Have high expectations! **Parent expectations**⁵ play a critical role for deaf youth as they transition from high school to college and work experiences.
- Think about multiple options and pathways to life after high school. **Transition planning**⁶ for **deaf**⁷ youth requires a **flexible, positive approach**⁸, now more than ever.
- Learn from **current deaf college students**⁹ about their strategies for navigating different challenges during the pandemic.
- Connect with **vocational rehabilitation professionals**¹⁰ in your area and learn about the options for **pre-employment transition services**¹¹.

STAY CONNECTED WITH NDC

- **COVID-19 Info**²² and **FAQs**²³ are regularly updated.
- **NDC | Help Team**²⁴ is just a click away.
- **Subscribe**²⁵ to keep current and connect with peers.

Focus on Self-Determination



- Emphasize **self-determination skill**¹² development at home. These skills have **lifelong benefits**¹³ in **school**¹⁴, **in the workplace**¹⁵, and in the community.
- Advocate for **accessible resources with your child**¹⁶, including remote interpreting, speech to text, and inclusive online learning design.
- Encourage your child to play **Deafverse**¹⁷, a choose-your-own-adventure game created just for teenagers. This online game comes with student and teacher guides, **home activity packs**¹⁸, and more.

Strategy to Avoid

Don't stop or postpone your child's college searches. Take advantage of online college tours and open houses.

Build a Network



- Watch the NDC #DeafSuccess **video playlist**¹⁹ with your child to see deaf adults share their many different pathways of life after high school.
- Cultivate **stress management and wellness**²⁰ for all family members. With many providers using remote video services, explore what options may be available for accessible wellness and mental health supports.
- Seek out a mentor for your child. **Research**²¹ shows that deaf youth who participate in mentorship programs develop greater confidence, self-worth, and deaf identity, which can in turn build self-esteem.

DIG DEEPER

Learn more in NDC's **online learning library**²⁶—free, self-paced courses on Deaf 101, Effective Communication, and more.

Links

1. nationaldeafcenter.org/resource/family-support-deaf-teens
2. nationaldeafcenter.org/news/strategies-parenting-deaf-teenagers-during-covid-19
3. nationaldeafcenter.org/engage/local
4. nationaldeafcenter.org/topics/legalpolicy
5. nationaldeafcenter.org/resource/effects-parent-expectations-and-parent-involvement-postschool-outcomes-deaf-individuals
6. nationaldeafcenter.org/topics/transition
7. nationaldeafcenter.org/defining-deaf
8. nationaldeafcenter.org/news/raising-bar-postsecondary-success-cawthon-presents-keynote-transition-design-life
9. nationaldeafcenter.org/news/pandemic-taking-unique-toll-deaf-college-students-according-new-poll
10. nationaldeafcenter.org/topics/vrtoolkit
11. nationaldeafcenter.org/topics/pre-ets
12. nationaldeafcenter.org/news/decide-act-believe-how-assess-and-empower-self-determination-deaf-youth
13. youtube.com/watch?v=0g2yUQ2TSTE&feature=youtu.be
14. nationaldeafcenter.org/resource/self-advocacy-skills-and-transition-planning-deaf-students
15. nationaldeafcenter.org/news/deaf-work-during-pandemic-making-gains-flexibility-optimism-and-resilience
16. nationaldeafcenter.org/news/remember-accessibility-rush-online-instruction-10-tips-educators
17. nationaldeafcenter.org/deafverse/about.html
18. nationaldeafcenter.org/news/deafverse-can-help-deaf-teens-connect-and-learn-home
19. youtube.com/results?search_query=%23DeafSuccess
20. nationaldeafcenter.org/resource/mental-health-care-deaf-individuals-needs-risk-factors-and-access-treatment
21. nationaldeafcenter.org/learn
22. nationaldeafcenter.org/covid19faqs
23. nationaldeafcenter.org/get-help
24. nationaldeafcenter.org/newsletter-listserv-sign-up
25. nationaldeafcenter.org/learn
26. nationaldeafcenter.org/covid-19-information