

Procedure Effective Communication

The District is committed to ensuring that all District-sponsored programs, activities, meetings, and services will be accessible to individuals with disabilities, including persons who have impaired hearing, vision or speech. The following procedure is intended to help ensure that any district communication with students, parents, or members of the public with disabilities are as effective as communications with persons who have no disabilities. There is no fee or charge for the District to provide appropriate auxiliary aids or services.

Requesting Communication Aids or Services for a Program, Activity, or Event

Individuals who may need an auxiliary aid or service to participate in and enjoy the benefits of a program, activity, meeting, or event should contact the school or District office as soon as possible and no later than three business days before the activity so that the District can make necessary arrangements. The District will make reasonable efforts to accommodate any requests made less than three business days in advance of a program, activity, meeting, or event. For auxiliary aids or services needed during a meeting of the Board of Directors, the request should be made directly to the office of the Superintendent.

The District's website provides information on how to request auxiliary aids and services, ask related questions, or raise concerns. The following is the site for this information: www.upsd.wednet.edu
If a person with a disability cannot access this format, this information will also be provided in an accessible format when necessary and upon request.

A form for requesting auxiliary aids and services is on the District website. While it is not required that this form be used to make such a request, this written form will minimize miscommunication and help the District understand the specific auxiliary aids or services being requested. District staff will also assist a requestor in filling out this form, when necessary. A copy of the form is attached to this procedure as an appendix.

Determining an Appropriate Auxiliary Aid or Service

When the District provides an auxiliary aid or service necessary to ensure effective communication, the aid or service must be provided in an accessible format, in a timely manner, and in such a way as to protect the privacy and independence of any person with a disability to the greatest extent possible. Determining an appropriate auxiliary aid or service must be individualized and made on a case-by-case basis, considering the communication used by the person with a disability; the nature, length and complexity of the communication involved; the content and the context in which the communication is taking place; the number of people involved in the communication; and the expected or actual length of time of the interaction(s). During this process, the District or school will give primary consideration to the auxiliary aid or service specifically requested by the person with a disability. "Primary consideration" means that the District will provide an opportunity for the person with the disability (or an appropriate family member) to request the aid or service that he or she thinks is needed to provide effective communication.

The District or school will honor the choice of the person with a disability unless:

1. the District or school can prove that an alternative auxiliary aid or service provides communication that is equally as effective as communication provided to a student without a disability; or
2. the District determines that such aid or service would result in a fundamental alteration in the nature of the service, program, or activity,
3. the District determines that such aid or service would result in an undue financial and/or administrative burden to the District.

If the District refuses to provide a particular auxiliary aid or service for the reasons stated in number (2. or 3.) above, such determination must be made by the Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee who has the authority to make budgetary and spending decisions, after considering all resources available for use by the District in the funding and operation of the service, program, or activity. This determination must

be issued in writing with the reasons for concluding that a requested auxiliary aid or service would cause such alteration or burden. Nevertheless, the District must take other steps that would not result in such an alteration or burden, but would still ensure that, to the maximum extent possible, the individual with a hearing, vision, or speech disability can participate in and receive the benefits or services provided by the District's program or activity.

If the District provides an auxiliary aid or service that is different than what is requested by the individual with a disability, the District will make a reasonable effort to provide notice to the requester in advance of the program, activity, meeting, or activity.

Timely Manner

The District will determine an appropriate auxiliary aid or service as soon as possible following a request by a person with a disability, and will likewise provide the auxiliary aid or service as soon as practicable.

Interpreters

For purposes of this policy, a "qualified interpreter" means an interpreter who, via a video remote interpreting (VRI) service or an on-site appearance, is able to interpret effectively, accurately, and impartially.. Qualified interpreters include sign language interpreters, oral transliterators, and cued-language transliterators. Interpreters certified to provide interpretation in court proceedings or during the delivery of health services are presumptively qualified to provide such services.

Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act expressly prohibits the school or District from requiring an individual with a disability to bring another person to interpret for him or her. The District is prohibited from relying upon a person who accompanies a child or adult with a hearing, vision, or speech disability to interpret or facilitate communication except under two circumstances:

1. In an emergency involving an imminent threat to the safety or welfare of an individual or the public where there is no interpreter available, the school or the District may ask either a minor child or an adult to interpret or facilitate communication. Where the individual with the hearing, vision, or speech disability specifically makes the request, an accompanying adult may interpret or facilitate communication if the accompanying adult agrees to provide the assistance and the school's reliance on the accompanying adult is appropriate under the circumstances.

Complaints and Compliance

The District has an ADA Coordinator who monitor's the District's obligations and compliance with Title II, and who is charged with investigating complaints of disability discrimination. Informal or formal complaints of disability discrimination should be made pursuant to the processes contained in Procedure 3210P (Nondiscrimination). Questions and concerns relating to communication with persons with hearing, vision, and/or speech disabilities may be directed to:

Maria Hetland
ADA Coordinator for Title II
3717 Grandview Drive West, University Place, WA 98466
253-566-5600
email Mhetland @upsd.wednet.edu

Adoption Date:

Classification:

Revised Dates: ; **03.16**

Form - Effective Communication

UNIVERSITY PLACE SCHOOL DISTRICT EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION REQUEST FORM*

Please note: The district needs as much advanced notice as possible to ensure that reasonable accommodations are met. Reasonable efforts will be made to accommodate requests made less than 48 hours in advance of a scheduled program, activity or event. If aids or services are needed for a meeting of the Board of Directors, please contact the office of the Superintendent directly at:253-566-5600.

Date of request: _____

Request Type: (Please check all that apply)

- Assistive Listening Aid or Service
- Assistive Vision Aid or Service
- Assistive Speech Aid or Service
- Other _____

Contact Persons:

	Name	Email, Phone or Website (preferred communication)
Individual making request		
Building manager (Principal) where event will take place		
Event Contact Person		

Event Details: *Please attach any relevant supporting information (i.e., event flyer or brochure).*

Event Name:	
Event Date:	
Start and End Time:	
Event Description (i.e., lecture, seminar, meeting, sports event):	
Location (i.e., building, facility, off-campus school-sponsored activity):	
Other relevant details:	

Please return this completed form to: the principal or office coordinator at your student's building.

**This document is available in alternative format upon request.*

Adoption Date: **10.16**

Classification:

Revised Dates: