



# Minnesota Regional Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Teams

## Overview

Minnesota's statewide Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) System has been built on interagency collaboration to support young children who have hearing loss, their families, and the Early Intervention professionals who serve them. The overall goals of Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) efforts in Minnesota are to ensure that:

1. Young children who have hearing loss are able to maximize their communication and learning potential, regardless of the degree of their hearing loss;
2. Young children who have hearing loss are able to begin kindergarten with communication, social and early literacy skills at developmental levels similar to those of their typically-hearing peers, or commensurate with their cognitive abilities; and
3. Each family receives the quality, individualized supports and services they need to help their child grow and learn.

Initially formed in 1998, the MN Regional EHDI Teams work to support current local, regional and statewide interagency EHDI initiatives that help build capacity in school districts and regions for providing evidence-based early intervention and early childhood support services that meet the unique needs of young children with hearing loss and their families. Supported by the MN Department of Education and the MN Low Incidence Projects, each of these regional teams is comprised of education professionals from the following disciplines who are currently working in the public school system: Educational Audiologists, Teachers for Deaf Hard of Hearing, Early Childhood Special Education Teachers, and Speech Language Pathologists.

## Regional EHDI Team Members' responsibilities include:

1. Participating in ongoing individual and group professional development activities to further their own knowledge and expertise in interagency EHDI initiatives and serving young children with hearing loss and their families. This professional development includes an annual 2-day MN Regional EHDI Teams' training meeting.
2. Serving as assigned representatives of district and regional education professionals who serve young children with hearing loss and their families. Team members serve as points of contact for the Statewide EHDI Specialist to help identify local and regional EHDI



system needs and goals, respond to identified staff development needs, and share resources.

3. Sharing information and resources with fellow service providers in their school districts and regions on MN EHDI initiatives and evidence-based practices specific to young children with hearing loss;
4. Collaborating to develop yearly regional and statewide EHDI-related goals and activity plans to support the provision of evidence-based practices in early intervention and optimal language and learning outcomes for children and families;
5. Assisting and participating in interagency and community organizations' activities to support EHDI initiatives within their communities and regions.

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