



Language and Literacy Development in Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children

History

Under [HB 619](#), passed by the 2023 Montana Legislature and codified under [MCA 52-2-901](#), the OPI participated in the Language and Literacy Development Advisory Committee to develop a parent resource and to establish language assessment standards for students who are deaf or hard of hearing. The Milestones, Language Assessment tools, and Parent Resource established by the Advisory Committee were accepted by OPI and shared via OPI's website under the link: [MT Language Developmental Milestones, Assessment Tools, and Parent Resource for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children](#).

Data

(7) (a) The department and the office of public instruction shall each prepare an annual report, using existing data that is reported in compliance with federal requirements for children receiving Part B and Part C services, regarding language development in deaf and hard-of-hearing children from birth through 8 years of age relative to their peers who are not deaf or hard of hearing.

(b) The report must include, as applicable to each agency:

(i) the total number of children receiving Part B and Part C services;

Students Receiving Part B Services

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Total # of children receiving Part B services Age 3-21	21,112	21,579	21,752
Dominant Disability*: Hard-of-Hearing	60	53	52
Dominant Disability*: Deaf	14	13	15

*IDEA Child count data is reported only by calculated Dominant Disability.

Ages 3-21, Disability category selected (may not be dominant disability).	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Hard-of-Hearing	154	150	156
Deaf	28	24	26

Ages 3 through 8 only; Disability category selected (may not be dominant disability).	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Hard-of-Hearing	48	44	47
Deaf	11	<10	<10

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The following items are not available within existing Part B data that is reported by OPI in compliance with federal requirements:

- (ii) the total number of children assessed for language development;
- (iii) the languages in which children were assessed and the number of children assessed in each language;
- (iv) the number of children who were and were not within age-appropriate development ranges based on their chronological age;
- (v) information on how the ratings included in the report were developed;
- (vi) for each assessment conducted, the tool that was used for the assessment; and
- (vii) the number of assessment proctors whose qualifications as established by the producer of the assessment tool were verified by both the parent or guardian and the department or the office of public instruction.

Part C Data

Montana DPHHS's report for children ages 0-3, who may receiving services under Part C of the IDEA is [available here under Deaf and Hard of Hearing Reports](#).