

2018 Kansas Statutes

75-5397e. Language assessment program; given, when; advisory committee; recommendations; reports; definitions.

(a) There is hereby established a language assessment program to be coordinated by the Kansas commission for the deaf and hard of hearing. The purpose of the program is to assess, monitor and track the language developmental milestones of children who are deaf or hard of hearing from birth through the age of eight. The recognized languages used in the education of children who are deaf and hard of hearing are English and American sign language. The scope of the program includes children who may use one or more communication modes in American sign language, English literacy and, if applicable, spoken English and visual supplements.

(b) On and after July 1, 2018, an annual language assessment shall be given to each child who is deaf or hard of hearing and who is less than nine years of age. Language assessments shall be provided either through early intervention services administered by the Kansas department of health and environment, or if the child is three years of age or older, through the school district in which the child is enrolled. Such language assessments shall be provided in accordance with the provisions of this section and any recommendations adopted pursuant to this section.

(c) There is hereby established within KCDHH an advisory committee on the language assessment program. The advisory committee shall consist of 16 members as follows:

(1) Nine members of the advisory committee shall be appointed by the governor as follows:

(A) One member shall be a credentialed teacher of the deaf who uses both ASL and English during instruction;

(B) one member shall be a credentialed teacher of the deaf who uses spoken English with or without visual supplements during instruction;

(C) one member shall be a credentialed teacher of the deaf who has expertise in curriculum development and instruction of ASL and English;

(D) one member shall be a credentialed teacher of the deaf who has expertise in assessing language development in both ASL and English;

(E) one member shall be a speech language pathologist who has experience working with children from birth through the age of eight;

(F) one member shall be a professional with a linguistic background who conducts research on language outcomes of children who are deaf or hard of hearing and use ASL and English;

(G) one member shall be a parent of a child who is deaf or hard of hearing and who uses both ASL and English;

(H) one member shall be a parent of a child who is deaf or hard of hearing and who uses spoken English with or without visual supplements; and

(I) one member who is knowledgeable about teaching and using both ASL and English in the education of children who are deaf and hard of hearing; and

(2) seven members of the advisory committee shall be ex officio members as follows:

(A) One member shall be the executive director of KCDHH;

(B) one member shall be the coordinator of the sound start program, or such coordinator's designee;

(C) one member shall be the KCDHH commission member representing the state school for the deaf, or such commission member's designee;

(D) one member shall be the KCDHH commission member representing the department of health and environment, or such commission member's designee;

(E) one member shall be the KCDHH commission member representing the state board of education, or such commission member's designee;

(F) one member shall be the coordinator of the early intervention program administered by the department of health and environment, or such coordinator's designee; and

(G) one member shall be the coordinator of the early education program administered by the department of education, or such coordinator's designee.

(d) The executive director of KCDHH shall call an organizational meeting of the advisory committee on or before August 1, 2016. At such organizational meeting, the members shall elect a chairperson and vice-chairperson from the membership of the advisory committee. The advisory committee may meet at any time and at any place within the state on the call of the chairperson. A quorum of the advisory committee shall be nine members. All actions of the advisory committee shall be by motion adopted by a majority of those members present when there is a quorum. Any vacancy on the committee shall be filled in accordance with subsection (c).

(e) On or before January 31, 2018, the advisory committee shall develop specific action plans and make recommendations necessary to fully implement the language assessment program. In carrying out its charge under this section, the committee shall:

(1) Collaborate with the coordinating council on early childhood developmental services and the Kansas state special education advisory council;

(2) solicit input from professionals trained in the language development and education of children who are deaf or hard of hearing on the selection of specific language developmental milestones;

History: L. 2016, ch. 83, § 2; May 19.