

VENTURA COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION

Stanley C. Mantooth, County Superintendent of Schools

Hearing Assistive Technology (HAT) Assessment Guidelines

The following guidelines are for use when direct teacher to student amplification (HAT) is considered for a student with a documented hearing loss. The role of the audiologist in the schools includes "determination of children's needs for group and individual amplification, selecting, and fitting an appropriate aid, and evaluating the effectiveness of those devices." IDEA, Part B, CFR §300.24(b)(1). Educational Team refers to school district personnel and may include, but is not limited to: IEP, SST, 504, or Intervention Progress Teams (ITP).

Referral Process

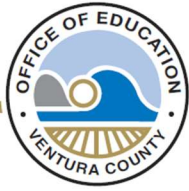
A referral for a HAT Assessment should be made when the Educational Team finds a student with a documented hearing loss may be a possible candidate for a HAT system. The Educational Team should contact the assigned VCOE Educational Audiologist for their district, who can help guide them through the process. Either an assessment plan with "Audiology" marked OR a Referral/Authorization for Hearing Services form with "Educational Audiology Consultation" and "HAT" marked should be completed. These forms should be submitted to VCOE Hearing Conservation, along with a recent audiogram (within 12 months). If there is no current audiogram, hearing testing can be completed by the Hearing Conservation.

HAT Evaluations

The student will undergo an evaluation for HAT by the Educational Audiologist, which may include but is not limited to: review of records, teacher questionnaires, audiologic evaluation, functional listening evaluations, observations, student interview/questionnaires, and/or parent questionnaires. Using the above data, the Educational Audiologist will make a recommendation to the Educational Team at a meeting regarding whether there is an indicated educational need for the provision of a HAT system. It is important to note that student motivation to use a system is taken into strong consideration when considering candidacy for HAT. The Educational Team should come to a consensus regarding the provision of HAT. Refer to HAT IEP Guidelines to determine how HAT should be included in the IEP document.

Purchasing of Equipment

If the Educational Team agrees that HAT should be provided to the student due to educational need, a request for purchase may be made through either Low Incidence funds or general funds by the VCOE Educational Audiologist. The Educational Audiologist will determine the most appropriate HAT for use by the student given his/her individual need. The process of purchasing equipment can take up to 8 weeks from submission to fitting. For students who have an IEP for a qualifying low incidence condition, there may be existing Ventura County SELPA HAT available for use. If a student is a borderline candidate or



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there are concerns regarding student motivation, it may be recommended that the student be fit with loaner HAT equipment for a trial period determined by the Educational Team. If the Educational Team feels there is not a benefit or consistent use by the student, the HAT system should be discontinued. If the trial was successful, a request may be made to purchase the student their own equipment.

Parallel Transfers

If a student moves to the Ventura County SELPA with an IEP indicating use of HAT (or "FM"), contact the assigned VCOE Educational Audiologist immediately. Submit the current IEP indicating HAT, along with the referral/authorization form with "Educational Audiology Consultation" and "HAT" marked, and any additional records, such as audiograms, to VCOE Hearing Conservation. An Educational Audiologist will follow-up with the case manager or assigned personnel regarding the next steps.