

1 Whereas, it is desirable for children who are deaf or hard of hearing to have
2 opportunities to interact with adult role models who are deaf or hard of hearing; and

3 Whereas, children who are deaf or hard of hearing should be offered equal
4 opportunity to benefit from all services and programs at their school; and

5 Whereas, North Carolina has adopted the Common Core State and NC Essential
6 Standards; Now, therefore,

7 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

8 **SECTION 1.** The State Board of Education shall do at least all of the following to
9 improve the educational outcomes for North Carolina children who are deaf or hard of hearing:

- 10 (1) Develop assessment procedures and protocols to measure, at least annually
11 or more frequently if specified in a child's Individualized Education Program
12 (IEP), the acquisition of language skills necessary for literacy using
13 linguistically and culturally appropriate assessment tools. The results of
14 these assessments shall be used to determine whether further support and
15 services, if any, are needed for a child.
- 16 (2) Require an IEP team to use the Communication Plan Worksheet for Student
17 Who is Deaf or Hard of Hearing to document (i) the team's consideration of
18 the language and communication needs of the individual child as the IEP is
19 developed, reviewed, or revised, (ii) data to be used in the placement
20 decisions made for that child, and (iii) the team's review, at least annually, of
21 the child's placement and language and communication needs.
- 22 (3) Ensure that personnel who are highly qualified in the education of children
23 who are deaf or hard of hearing are available to meet the unique needs of
24 each child, including interactions in the child's language and communication
25 modality to meet academic and social goals.
- 26 (4) Develop and implement strategies to ensure that parents of a child who is
27 deaf and hard of hearing know they are entitled to request that the child's IEP
28 team consider placement of their child in a residential setting and, if such a
29 request is made, that a representative from one of the two North Carolina
30 residential/day program schools for the deaf shall be a member of the IEP
31 team.

32 **SECTION 2.** The Department of Health and Human Services and other State
33 agencies and organizations upon the request of the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) shall
34 make databases containing information on children under the age of 22 who are diagnosed as
35 deaf or hard of hearing available to DPI. DPI shall use this information to develop and maintain
36 a statewide data tracking system for the purpose of coordinating with other State agencies and
37 organizations and ensuring literacy achievement for all such children who are deaf or hard of
38 hearing.

39 **SECTION 3.** This act is effective when it becomes law.