

Essential Links

Parent Links
Funded by Calif. Dept. of
Ed.

**Deaf Child's Educational Bill of Rights
AB1836: A Historic Change
California Department of Education
State Special Schools and Services Division, Deaf and Hard of Hearing Unit
Developed 2/19/99**

Delaine Eastin, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, has long been an advocate for California's deaf and hard of hearing children. While a member of California's Assembly, she authored numerous legislative bills, including AB 1836, which was signed and chaptered into California Law, Education Code 56000.5 in September, 1994. This historic legislation, called by many "the Deaf Child's Educational Bill of Rights," acknowledged the vital importance of a deaf or hard of hearing child being educated in an environment that respects and uses their mode of communication.

Key to the development and ultimate passage of AB1836 was the Deaf Education Coalition (DEC). Six years of arduous work preceded the passage of this historic legislation. Approximately 25 organizations coalesced to become the DEC. Their common goal was to significantly change the way education and related services were delivered to deaf and hard of hearing children.

What issues does AB1836 address?

It addresses some fundamental human issues -- the ability to communicate with others, the ability to

What issues does AB1836 address?

It addresses some fundamental human issues -- the ability to communicate with others, the ability to have friends who can talk to you, and listen to you. It addresses the need for deaf and hard of hearing children to have teachers, psychologists, assessment staff, and other professionals who are fluent in the language being used by the student

It is also important that deaf and hard of hearing students are educated with a sufficient number of other deaf and hard of hearing classmates to allow free, open, and spontaneous communication.

AB1836 doesn't promote one form of communication over another. There is a clear understanding that whatever the mode of communication being used by a deaf or hard of hearing child, it must be respected.

This historic legislation acknowledges the importance of deaf and hard of hearing children being able to associate with others who are also deaf or hard of hearing, and who are proficient in the language utilized by the student. That includes regular contact with other children, as well as with professionals, including teachers and other school personnel.