



Speech-Language & Audiology Canada
Orthophonie et Audiologie Canada
Communicating care | La communication à coeur

RE: The importance of Educational Audiology

School board

Dear Trustee [name],

Every student deserves full access to their education. For students who are Deaf and hard of hearing, educational audiologists make that possible. Access to their specialized services is vital to ensuring that these students can reach their full academic and social potential.

On behalf of Speech-Language & Audiology Canada (SAC), I am writing to advocate for more equitable and supportive learning environments by encouraging you to prioritize access to educational audiologists. These regulated healthcare professionals hold a master's or doctoral degree in audiology and work directly with students, teachers, and school staff to ensure that Deaf and Hard of Hearing students can learn effectively.

Educational audiologists do more than just manage hearing technology; they provide comprehensive, student-specific support by:

- **Optimizing Auditory Access:** Interpreting audiograms, observing students, and analyzing classroom acoustics and the classroom environment to make personalized adjustments. This ensures that each child is able to hear their teacher and participate fully in the classroom.
- **Enhancing Learning:** Working with teachers to implement strategies like preferential seating and visual cues to improve a student's understanding and participation, while also helping teachers understand how hearing loss affects learning in the classroom.
- **Building Self-Advocacy:** Empowering students with the skills and confidence to advocate for their own hearing needs and become independent learners.
- **Preventing Fatigue:** Reducing listening effort, which frees up a student's cognitive energy for learning and reaching their full potential.

While other professionals, such as speech-language pathologists and teachers of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, are essential, educational audiologists possess a unique skill set specifically focused on a student's auditory access and the technology required to support it. By prioritizing educational audiology services, your board can ensure that Deaf and Hard of Hearing students are not left behind and have the same opportunities as their peers.

We would be grateful for the opportunity to meet with you to discuss this matter further and explore how SAC can support your division in this important initiative. Please let us know what time works best for a brief meeting.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]