

Language Assessment Program for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (LAP-DHH)





Council of Superintendents
September 21, 2022

History of LAP-DHH

- 2016 – The Language Equality and Acquisition for Deaf Kids (LEAD-) is a grassroots movement from the Deaf community to effect change at the state level with its mission to work towards kindergarten readiness for DHH children by promoting access to ASL and English. Legislature passed K.S.A. 75-5397e and the mandate was set in motion that all children who are deaf/hard of hearing, ages birth through eight will receive language assessment, at least annually, to ensure they are meeting language milestones that are commensurate with their hearing peers. Advisory Committee met for 15 months to develop the language assessment program
- 2018 - KSD was designated as the lead agency for implementation of the statewide program by the Kansas Commission for the Deaf/Hard of Hearing (KCDHH)
- 2022 – The legislature approved to fund the KSD Birth-3 LAP and authority to assess and collect a fee from unified school districts, special education cooperatives and interlocals to fund the operations of the LAP.







KSD's Position on LAP-DHH

- Kansas Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (KCDHH) designates KSD as the lead agency to implement the statewide LAP, per recommendations from the LAP Advisory Council.
 - Assessment results will be shared with the child's family and educational team
 - Final reports are to be submitted to the KCDHH at the end of calendar year and share reports with the Kansas State Legislature during the spring session
 - Hire and provide training for the LAP-DHH specialists
 - Investigating ways to utilize local providers in various locations throughout the state who can serve as LAP-DHH specialists as well as lower the cost of the assessment process
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Who qualifies for the LAP-DHH Services?

- Any child who is deaf or hard of hearing birth through age eight regardless of whether they have an IFSP, IEP, or 504 plan including those who might not currently qualify for additional support.
 - This is not only for students who receive special education services.
 - Child with a mild hearing loss still qualifies
 - Child with any type of amplification or wearing cochlear implants still qualifies
 - Child who can talk well but has a hearing loss still qualifies
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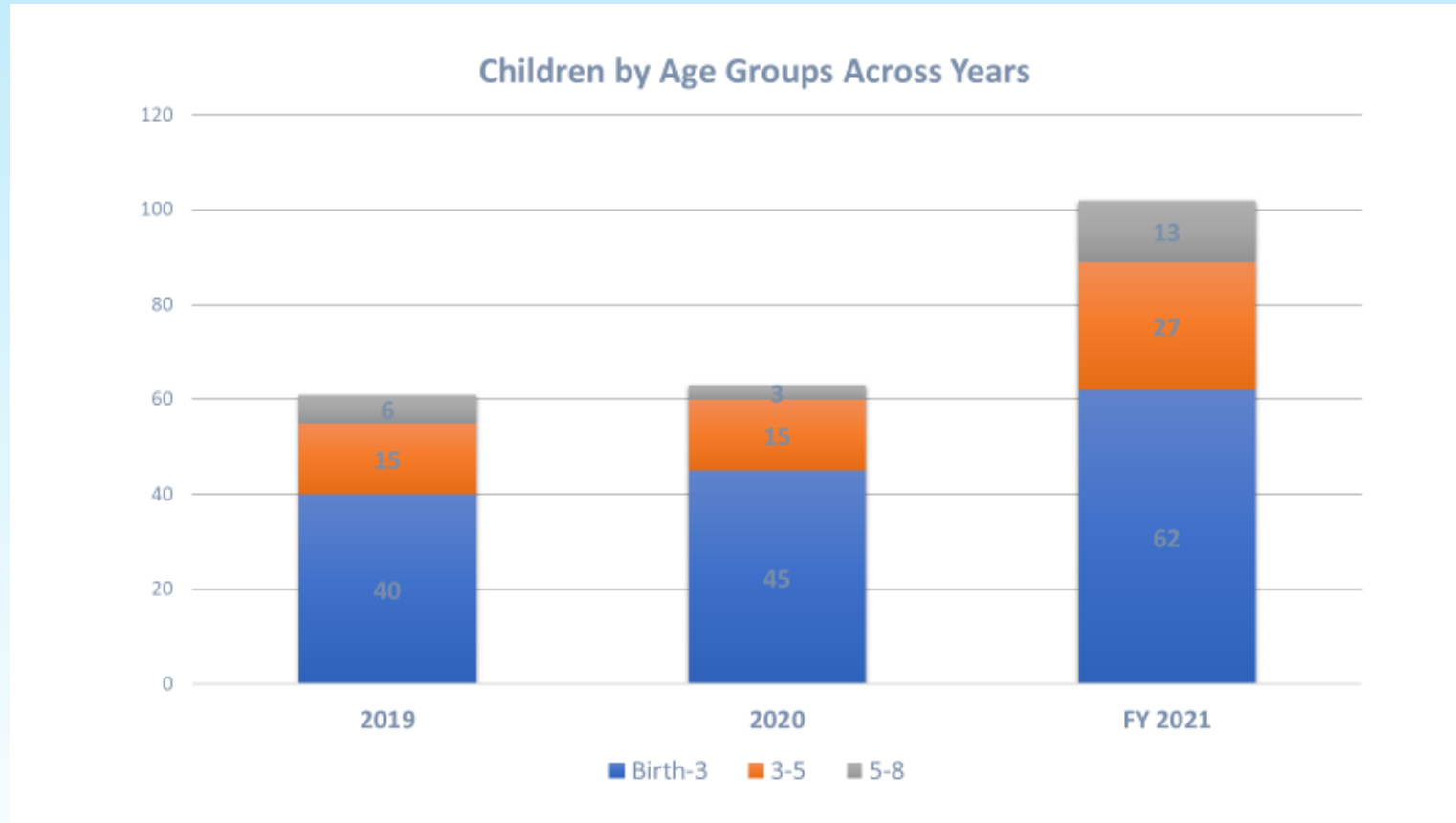
Who can do the assessments?

- LAP-DHH specialists must have the following qualifications:
 - Licensed in Deaf Education, Early Childhood Special Educator and/or Speech-Language Pathologist
 - Experience in deaf education and/or child development for children who are DHH
 - Knowledge of language milestones and language development in American Sign Language (ASL) and English in children from birth through age eight
 - Fluent in ASL and/or English to administer assessments in the child's primary language(s) to avoid the use of an interpreter
 - Completion of intense training on assessments used and how to interpret the results
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Language Milestones Results

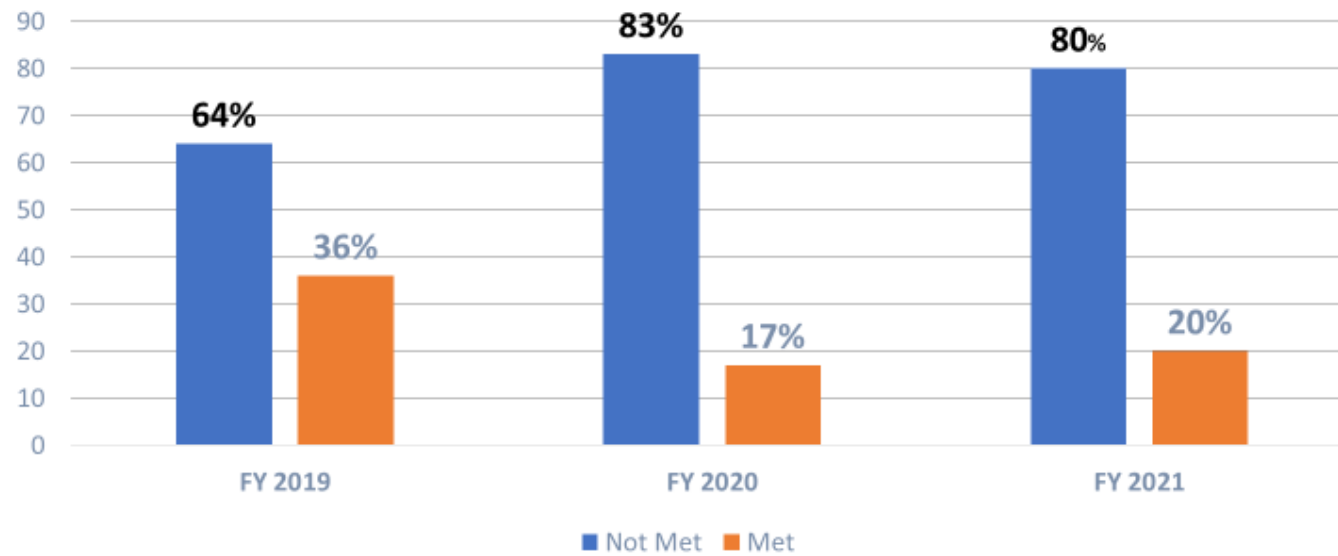


Children by Age Groups Across Years



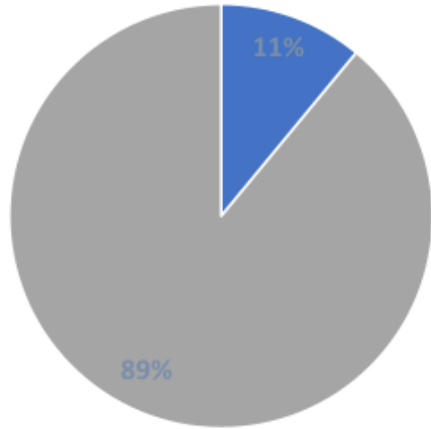
Not Meeting/Meeting Milestones

DHH Children Who Did Not Meet Milestones in One or More Language



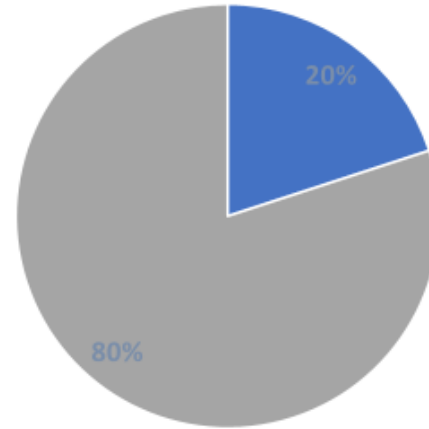
of Students Assessed in ASL or English

45 Students Assessed in ASL



■ Met ■ Did Not Meet

92 Students Assessed in English



■ Met ■ Did Not Meet