

Emergency Preparedness Checklist for Teachers Supporting Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students

A practical checklist for teachers and school teams, covering alerting, communication access, device continuity, evacuation, drills, and follow-up.

APPROVED BY THE EAA BOARD

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1. Accessible Alerting and Warning Systems

- ☐ Classroom has visual alerts (e.g., strobe fire alarms)
- ☐ Vibration-based alerts available (pagers, bed shakers, etc.)
- ☐ Emergency broadcasts include captions or ASL access
- ☐ Staff assigned to visually signal or tap students if technology fails

2. Communication Access During Emergencies

- ☐ Whiteboards, printed cards, or other visual tools ready for instructions
- ☐ Pre-written emergency communication cards available for first responders
- ☐ Staff trained in basic ASL or communication strategies for emergencies
- ☐ Students know how to receive alerts on their mobile devices

3. Assistive Technology and Hearing Device Continuity

- ☐ Backup batteries and chargers stored in classroom
- ☐ Portable or solar chargers included in evacuation kits
- ☐ Procedures in place to secure hearing devices during evacuation
- ☐ Alternative communication methods available if devices fail

4. Evacuation and Shelter-in-Place Procedures

- ☐ Visual instructions for evacuation routes and shelter areas posted
- ☐ Buddy system established with trained peers
- ☐ Visual signage present in evacuation and shelter zones
- ☐ Staff trained to avoid separating students from interpreters or devices

5. Classroom and Environment Preparedness

- ☐ Visual alerting systems installed and functioning (flashing or vibrating)
- ☐ Weather radios connected to visual or vibration outputs
- ☐ Communication boards accessible in classroom and evacuation areas
- ☐ All staff trained in basic emergency communication strategies for D/HH students

6. Community and Support Network Integration

- ☐ Assigned staff or peers responsible for keeping students informed during rapid changes
- ☐ Emergency responders aware of D/HH communication needs
- ☐ Family communication plan (captioned alerts, ASL access, text-based updates)

7. Training, Drills, and Practice

- ☐ Drills include visual and tactile cues
- ☐ Interpreters participate in all emergency drills
- ☐ Practice scenarios for device loss or interpreter separation
- ☐ Debrief after each drill to identify improvements

8. Emergency Go-Bag for D/HH Students

- ☐ Extra hearing device batteries
- ☐ Portable charger
- ☐ Laminated communication cards
- ☐ Pen and paper or dry-erase board
- ☐ Copy of student's communication plan
- ☐ Flashlight

9. Continuous Assessment and Improvement

- ☐ Safety plans reviewed regularly
- ☐ Feedback collected from students, families, staff, and involved community members
- ☐ Best practices updated as new guidance becomes available

10. Engagement and Inclusivity

- ☐ D/HH students involved in planning and decision-making
- ☐ School culture promotes communication, access, and awareness
- ☐ Educational materials distributed to staff and students

Companion Infographic

A one-page visual version of this checklist is available for staff rooms, family nights, and drill debriefs. It groups the items above into three phases: readiness, response, and practice and improvement. Download it from www.edaud.org.

Educational Audiology Awareness Week 2026

D/HH SCHOOL EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

SAFE. INFORMED. INCLUDED.



READINESS



Alerting & Warnings

- ☐ Visual alerts (strobe alarms)
- ☐ Vibration alerts (pagers)
- ☐ Weather radios (visual/vibration)
- ☐ Captioned/ASL broadcasts
- ☐ Staff signal/tap if technology fails



Communication Access

- ☐ Visual instruction tools ready
- ☐ Accessible communication boards
- ☐ Responder communication cards
- ☐ Staff trained in basic sign
- ☐ Alerts on mobile devices



Technology Continuity

- ☐ Backup batteries/chargers
- ☐ Portable/solar chargers in kits
- ☐ Secure devices during evacuation
- ☐ Backup communication if devices fail

RESPONSE



Evacuation & Shelter-in-Place

- ☐ Posted visual route instructions
- ☐ Buddy system with peers
- ☐ Visual signage in shelter
- ☐ Keep students and interpreters/devices together



Support Network

- ☐ Assigned staff keep students informed
- ☐ Responders aware of D/HH needs
- ☐ Family communication plan



Emergency Go-Bag

- ☐ Spare device batteries
- ☐ Portable charger
- ☐ Communication cards
- ☐ Pen/paper or dry erase board
- ☐ Communication plan
- ☐ Flashlight

PRACTICE AND IMPROVEMENT



Training & Drills

- ☐ Visual/tactile drill cues
- ☐ Interpreters in every drill
- ☐ Practice device-loss scenarios
- ☐ All staff trained
- ☐ Debrief after each drill



Assess & Improve

- ☐ Review plans regularly
- ☐ Collect stakeholder feedback
- ☐ Update best practices



Engagement & Inclusion

- ☐ Involve students in planning
- ☐ Promote access & awareness
- ☐ Distribute materials to staff/students



Communication is safety.



Preparation builds confidence.



Inclusion saves lives.



Together, we create safer schools for all.

For full list and descriptions, visit www.edaud.org.

References

1. Ready.gov. Ready Kids. <https://www.ready.gov/kids>
2. Ready.gov. Ready Kids: Educators and Organizations. <https://www.ready.gov/kids/educators-organizations>
3. SchoolSafety.gov. Emergency Planning. <https://www.schoolsafety.gov/emergency-planning>
4. SchoolSafety.gov. (2024). Inclusive Emergency Planning for K-12 Schools. https://www.schoolsafety.gov/sites/default/files/2024-06/SchoolSafety.gov_Inclusive%20Emergency%20Planning%20for%20K-12%20Schools_June%202024_508.pdf

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About the Educational Audiology Association

The Educational Audiology Association is an international professional organization for audiologists who work with children in educational settings. Learn more at www.edaud.org.