

## **Specialized Services: Related Services and Vision/Hearing Services**

### **Related Services:**

Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) provides a full continuum of related services for eligible students. Occupational Therapists, Physical Therapists, and Speech-Language Pathologists are licensed healthcare professionals trained to address the needs of students to support access, participation, and/or progress in his/her learning environment.

#### *Occupational Therapy*

Occupational Therapists (OTs) address a variety of needs including, but not limited to: sensory integration/processing, fine motor skills, feeding, attention, and self-help skills.

#### *Physical Therapy*

Physical Therapists (PTs) address a variety of needs including, but not limited to: gross motor skills, safe navigation of the physical school environment, access to the learning environment, and maximizing independence.

#### *Speech-Language Therapy*

Speech-Language Pathologists (SLPs) address a variety of needs including, but not limited to: articulation, language, fluency, feeding, and communication development to facilitate learning.

### **Vision/Hearing Services:**

#### *Vision Services*

Harford County Public Schools' Vision Program provides services to students, birth through 21, who are blind or have a visual impairment. In accordance with COMAR 13A.05.01.03B(84), a visual impairment is defined as any impairment in vision which, even with correction, adversely affects a student's educational performance; and includes, partial sight and blindness. The term includes; but is not limited to, diagnoses of:

- "Legal blindness" - visual acuity is 20/200 or less, in the better eye, after correction, or a field restriction of less than 20°;
- "Partial sight" - visual acuity is 20/70 or less, in the better eye, after correction.
- Other visual impairments that adversely affect educational performance (e.g. convergence insufficiency and binocular disorders).

The Vision Program offers specialized Braille Programs within a designated elementary, middle, and high school, with a Braille Transcriber at each location. Teachers of the Visually Impaired (TVI), as well as Orientation and Mobility Instructors (O&M), travel to the students' assigned school or natural settings to provide services relating to the vision loss of the student. The Vision Program staff work collaboratively with the family, school staff, and eye medical professionals through consultation in order to provide support and resources.

#### *Hearing Services*

Harford County Public Schools provides a continuum of services for students who are deaf and hard of hearing from Birth to age 21. Teachers of the Hearing Impaired provide specialized instruction to meet the unique needs of our students, which enable them to access their instruction. Depending on the need, students may be provided accommodations and modifications; such as assistive listening devices or interpreting services.

#### *Audiology*

Harford County Public Schools' audiologist will review a student's audiogram, functional hearing, and ability levels to determine if a student has an educationally significant hearing loss. The audiologist will consult with school personnel to ensure that appropriate accommodations are being made in the school.

***Eligibility:***

Eligibility for the continuum of related services and vision/hearing services is determined by the appropriate team once all relevant evaluations are completed and reviewed. Referrals can be initiated by a parent or outside provider with parent permission.

***Referral Information:***

Based upon the age of the child, please direct your inquiry or referral to the following offices:

Birth to Age 3: Contact the Infants and Toddlers Program at [410-638-3823](tel:410-638-3823).

Ages 3-5: Contact Child Find at [410-638-4386](tel:410-638-4386).

School-Aged Students enrolled in HCPS: Contact the student's home school.

Students attending Private/Religious Schools: Contact Child Find at [410-638-4386](tel:410-638-4386).