

Position Statement: Scope of Advocacy

CEASD recognizes the autonomy of its member schools. Our membership comprises public schools, private schools, schools that are housed in their state department of education, schools that are independent state agencies, schools with large outreach programs that are primary service providers in the state, and schools with other types of service provision structures. Some schools primarily serve students in the mainstream, without a school building where students gather together in one spot. There is a great deal of variability from state to state in the structure and services that are required from our schools and the fact that no two schools are alike.

The population of students served varies as well. Our schools serve students who use American Sign Language, those who use spoken language with or without visual supports, and those who use both. Our schools serve students who use various forms of visual and auditory technology.

As such, and in keeping with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, our schools must be responsive to the students' individual needs and the informed choices of their families. CEASD works to support and protect schools for the deaf so that they can continue the work they do in educating students in all domains and supporting their diverse families. Member schools are accountable to students, their families, and forces outside of the school such as statutory and fiscal requirements. Each school leader, with input from stakeholders, must determine how best to demonstrate that accountability.

CEASD works to support all member schools and will always carefully consider requests and strives to be responsive to member schools' requests for advocacy.

Adopted by CEASD Board April 2019, Denver, Colorado