



**Philosophy:**

*It is the hearing support program's philosophy that all deaf or hard of hearing children be given the opportunity and environment in which to maximize their communication skills.*

**BLaST Intermediate Unit #17**

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*BLaST Intermediate Unit #17*

*Serving Students in Bradford,  
Lycoming and Sullivan, Tioga Counties*

**Itinerant  
Services**

**Hearing  
Support**

[www.iu17.org](http://www.iu17.org)

## **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

*The Hearing Support Program of the BLaST Intermediate Unit provides educational support services to students who demonstrate a hearing loss.*

*Based on the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEIA) and Pennsylvania's Chapter 14, the State Standards and Regulations which govern Special Education, the following is the definition for students with a **hear-ing loss**:*

***Deafness-a hearing loss that is so severe that it impairs processing linguistic information through hearing that adversely affects educational performance.***

***Hard of Hearing-a hearing loss that adversely affects educational performance but is not included under the definition of deafness.***

*Based on the evaluation report (ER), an individualized education plan (IEP) team determines if the student is eligible for hearing services and in need of specially designed instruction. During the IEP meeting, the team may consider assistive technology, environmental and material modifications, teacher support and instructional strategies.*

## **REFERRAL PROCEDURES**

- 1. Parents must obtain a written copy of the examination report of student's hearing levels from a licensed audiolo-gist.*
- 2. Parents then complete a "Permission to Evaluate" form and return it to the Special Education Department of their home district .*
- 3. An evaluation will be performed by the BLaST IU17 teacher of the deaf and hard of hearing, and the results will be shared with the Multidisciplinary Team.*



## **SERVICE OPTIONS:**

***School based*** - serving students by providing educational materials re-garding hearing loss, academic sup-port, orientation to technology, in-struction in speech reading, auditory skills, language development and skill development provided within individual and/or small group situa-tions.

***Monitoring and consultation*** – serving children who need minimal support and may require technology orientation and monitoring, loaning of classroom auditory systems or other materials, academic follow-up and in-servicing of teachers and families.

***Early intervention*** – serving children aged 3-5 and their families by providing educational materials, information regarding hearing loss, orientation to technology, instruction in speech reading, auditory skills, language development, and skill development.