

The Albuquerque Sign Language Academy

children. family. community. possibility.

- Mission to serve deaf, hard of hearing, and hearing children in a bilingual ASL-English environment
- K-9 Student Population: 70% Special Education students—many with multiple/high needs; 65% Title I
- First and only state certified ASL-English bilingual school in the nation
- New Mexico's only elementary school with a Supplemental Assessment Model (SAM) designation
- Sanctioned by NM Public Education Dept. to develop content assessments, behavioral assessments, and language assessments to be used statewide for the 2% of students for whom the SBA is not an appropriate assessment
- In partnership with the NM PED Bilingual department to develop a state-wide Bilingual ASL-English Teacher Certification
- Robust partnership with UNM to develop a teacher training program specific to the needs of the ASL Academy
- 2013 Charter School of the Year (NM Coalition for Charter Schools)



Visit our website at www.ASLAcademy.com
for more information and to view our video.

HISTORY OF POOR EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES FOR DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING CHILDREN IN NEW MEXICO

Toward Brighter Futures: 2003 Task Force Report on the Education of the Deaf & Hard-of-Hearing detailed the poor educational outcomes and resulting social implications for deaf and hard of hearing persons as reflected in the following statistics:

- Deaf/hard of hearing students graduate from high school reading at the 2.8 to 4.5 grade level. Comparatively, hearing students graduate reading at the 10+ grade level.
- Children who are deaf/hard of hearing gain only 1.5 years in reading skills between the ages of 8 and 18.
- 30% of deaf/hard of hearing students leave school functionally illiterate, as compared to only 1% of hearing students.
- Only 8% of deaf/hard of hearing students graduate from college.
- In 2002, 64% of New Mexicans with hearing loss were unemployed or underemployed, as compared to only 5.9% of New Mexico's total population.
- Nationally, the income of deaf adults is only 40-60% of hearing adults, and one third of deaf adults receive some form of governmental assistance.

The ASL Academy founders determined that opening a charter school was an exciting option because it provided for *significant and immediate change*.

- The ASL Academy opened in July 2010 and will enroll 100 children in grades K-9.
- Approximately 70% of students qualify for special education services.
- Approximately 85% of students have a link to the deaf community, either by being deaf or hard of hearing themselves or by having a dhh sibling, parent, cousin or other family member.
- The ASL Academy is authorized by the State of New Mexico's Public Education Commission (PEC).
- The ASL Academy is not affiliated with the New Mexico School for the Deaf (NMSD) or Albuquerque Public Schools.