DDSB
Ignite Learning

Language Acquisition Support Workers

(LASWs)

Who are we?

Language Acquisition Support Workers (LASWs) help D/deaf and hard-of-hearing students develop sign language skills in the classroom. They are fluent in American Sign Language (ASL) and experienced in working with culturally D/deaf students and youth.

What do we do?

LASWs support D/deaf and hard-of-hearing students from kindergarten to Grade 12 by:

- **Building Language Skills** – Teaching and reinforcing sign language throughout the school day to enhance communication.
- **Collaborating with Educators & Families** – Working with teachers, caregivers, Teachers of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, and other professionals to support student learning.
- **Creating Learning Resources** – Developing and adapting materials to match students' language needs and curriculum goals.
- **Promoting Cultural Awareness** – Encouraging understanding and appreciation of D/deaf culture and the significance of sign language within the school and community.

How Do LASWs Support Students?

LASWs foster authentic and meaningful language learning through:

- **Personalized Instruction** – Tailoring strategies to each student's stage of sign language development.
- **Interactive Learning** – Using engaging activities and visual supports to make language learning effective and enjoyable.
- **Confidence Building** – Encouraging students to use sign language in academic and social settings.
- **Monitoring Progress** – Assessing and tracking student growth and adjusting instruction as needed.

Who Can Receive LASW Support?

- **Students who are D/deaf and/or hard of hearing and are new to ASL or still developing their ASL skills.**
- **Parents, students, school staff, or community agencies can request LASW support through the school's Special Education Resource Teacher (SERT), with consent.**

Want to Learn More?

For more information, contact the Senior Manager and Clinical Lead of Speech-Language and Hearing Services:

1-800-265-3968 ext. 6378 or 905-666-6378

DDSB Educational Sign Language Interpreters

Inclusive
STUDENT SERVICES