

# High School Program

Contact your child's school district to learn about obtaining a referral for LICA services.

## What is a LICA high school classroom like?

LICA's High School Program is located at John Hersey High School in Arlington Heights District 214. Our program has been part of the Hersey community since 1978. Every day, LICA students eat lunch, socialize, and attend classes with general education peers.

LICA encourages students to actively engage in community life at Hersey High School. Students regularly participate in extracurricular activities with interpreters as needed. They also play on Deaf Volleyball teams and take part in Deaf Academic Bowl competitions.

LICA has developed creative approaches to guarantee that students are learning academic content from highly qualified teachers.

## How does LICA approach academics for high school students?

LICA uses a combination of specially-designed instructional approaches and grade-level curricula in use at John Hersey High School. LICA's curriculum is aligned with the Illinois Learning Standards. Reading and language are taught using Direct Instruction curricula. Specific learning activities are modified to accommodate the individual needs of each student while addressing the goals in his or her Individual Educational Plan (IEP).



LICA's High School Program focuses on each student's growth in the following areas:

- Language: To help students develop communication skills, literacy skills, and mastery of academic language and vocabulary.
- Social: To help students feel comfortable in school, to make and keep friends, and to feel they are a part of the group.
- Emotional: To help students experience pride and self-confidence, develop independence and self-control, to become successful self-advocates, and to have a positive attitude toward life.
- Cognitive: To help students become confident and effective learners by letting them try out their own ideas and experience success, and by helping them acquire learning skills such as the ability to solve problems, ask questions, and use words to describe their ideas, observations, and feelings.

### **Are there other special programs for LICA students?**

All LICA students begin the process of transition planning at age 14-and-a-half. At Hersey, the Transition Coordinator works with students to develop and make progress on transition goals in academic skills, work experience, advocacy, independent life skills, and healthy leisure activities. A variety of summer vocational experiences are available to students, including working in the LICA summer program for younger students.

### **Who will work with my child?**

LICA takes a multidisciplinary approach to teaching.

All LICA teachers in the High School Program maintain certification from the State of Illinois in special education/deaf education, and are rated Highly Qualified in the subject area(s) they teach by the No Child Left Behind Act. They are knowledgeable about amplification, educational technology, deaf culture, and about the impact of a hearing loss on language, speech, and academic development. Teachers in the High School Program are trained in research-validated instructional approaches and in establishing and maintaining positive classroom environments. Teachers, support staff, and classroom aides use sign and voice with students according to each child's communication needs. LICA interpreters have Illinois State Board of Education approval.

LICA classroom teachers are supported by a speech-language pathologist, an educational audiologist, an occupational therapist, a physical therapist, a social worker, and a psychologist. Each member of the support staff holds a graduate level degree and state licensure in his or her field. The educational team also includes interpreters, an instructional interventionist, classroom teaching assistants, and the LICA Program Supervisor. The LICA Assistive Listening Device (ALD) Technician is also available to provide rapid-response support to classroom staff. Not all of the staff members listed work with every child; services are determined by the student's individual needs as listed in his/her IEP.

### **What part do parents play?**

Parents play a vital role in their child's development. LICA's team approach extends from the staff at school and the parents at home who work together to meet the child's individual needs and to help him or her succeed. Communication between teachers and parents is frequent and includes regular meetings and other updates provided in a format selected by the parents.

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LICA (Low Incidence Cooperative Agreement) is a public school special education cooperative that serves 44 school districts in the north and north-west Chicago suburbs. LICA provides classroom instruction, itinerant support, diagnostic services, and related services to students who are deaf or hard of hearing from age 3 through 21.

#### **Our mission**

LICA's mission is to help students become successful adults in home, school, work and community by providing programs and services that ensure students: a) acquire and use knowledge and skills; b) develop effective communication skills; c) interact well with others and have friends; d) take effective action to meet their needs; e) care about others and contribute to society; and f) take actions to maintain their own health and wellness.