

Middle School Program

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

What is a LICA middle school classroom like?

The LICA Middle School Program is housed at MacArthur Middle School in Prospect Heights District 23. Classes are typically small, usually with four to eight students. Every day LICA students eat lunch, socialize, and attend classes with general education students. For example, LICA and general education students join in team-taught Exploratory classes. LICA students may be in regular classrooms with assistance for other subjects depending upon their skills and Individual Educational Plan (IEP).

Because peer relationships are increasingly important to students at this age, LICA's Middle School Program focuses on creating opportunities to foster those relationships. Students regularly participate in extracurricular activities, in field trips, and in other school events with an interpreter as needed. MacArthur Middle School is an elementary feeder school for John Hersey High School, which hosts the LICA High School Program. This gives our students an important start in establishing relationships that will continue into high school.

LICA also regularly schedules opportunities for students to meet with deaf adults who share information about their own educational experiences, their careers, and community recreation opportunities.



How will my child learn?

LICA uses a combination of specially-designed instructional approaches and grade-level curricula in use at MacArthur Middle School. LICA's curriculum is aligned with the Illinois Learning Standards. Language instruction is presented in thematic units that

focus on the development of speech, listening, vocabulary, syntax, and language skills. Reading and language are taught using Direct Instruction curricula and Visual Phonics. Specific learning activities are modified to accommodate the individual needs of each student while addressing the goals in his or her IEP.

LICA's Elementary Program focuses on student growth in the following areas:

- **Language:** To help students develop a broad range of communication skills, literacy skills, and mastery of academic language and vocabulary.
- **Social:** To help students feel comfortable in school, make and keep friends, and feel part of the group.
- **Emotional:** To help students experience pride and self-confidence, develop independence and self-control, to successfully advocate for themselves, and to have a positive attitude toward life.

- Cognitive: To help students become confident, effective learners by letting them try out their own ideas and experience success, and by helping them learn to solve problems, ask questions, and use words to describe their ideas, observations, and feelings.
- Physical: To help students increase their large- and small-muscle skills and feel confident about what their bodies can do.

Who will work with my child?

LICA takes a multidisciplinary approach to teaching.

All LICA teachers in the Middle School Program maintain certification from the State of Illinois in special education/deaf education, and are rated Highly Qualified by the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act. They are knowledgeable about amplification, cochlear implants, educational technology, and about the impact of a hearing loss on language, speech, and academic development. Teachers in the Middle 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 a physical education teacher, an instructional interventionist, a school nurse, a vision teacher, 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 described 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.

Interested in visiting? We'd love you to see us in action.

Please refer to the visit guidelines on our website

www.lica.k12.il.us

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.