

**Best Practice Site**  
**Teaching Students with Disabilities to Read and Write**

<b>Region</b>	Eastern and Western
<b>Schools</b>	The North Carolina School for the Deaf The Eastern North Carolina School for the Deaf <u>Beth Rhoades</u> County Schools Central Office Address: 2302 Mail Service Center Phone: 919-855-4441 Fax: 919-733-2970 Email: <a href="mailto:beth.rhoades@ncmail.net">beth.rhoades@ncmail.net</a> <u>Beth Rhoades/Michele Neal</u> , Site/Center Coordinator Address: Phone: 919-810-9675 Fax: 919-336-643-5125 Email: <a href="mailto:Michele.neal@ncmail.net">Michele.neal@ncmail.net</a>
<b>Coordinator and Central Office</b>	
<b>Exceptional Children/Literacy Programs, Site Coordinator</b>	TBD
<b>Instructional Location(s)</b>	Eastern North Carolina School for the Deaf 1311 US Hwy 301 South Wilson, NC 27894-2768 252-237-2450 North Carolina School for the Deaf 517 West Fleming Drive Morganton, NC 28655 828-432-5202

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### **Teaching Students with Disabilities to Read and Write**

#### **Purpose and Goals**

1. To improve literacy skills of students
2. Improve the basic skills performance of students
3. Increase the number of qualified teachers of students with a hearing disability
4. Increase graduation rates and decrease dropout rates of students
5. Improve parent satisfaction with, and support of, school services for students with a hearing disability.

#### **Description Of Students**

All of the students served by these schools are identified as needing special education. Twenty-four percent of the students are enrolled in one of the schools for the academic program only and leave campus at the end of the academic day. Seventy-six percent of the students reside on campus from Sunday evening through Friday afternoon. Approximately ninety percent of the students are eligible for Medicaid and 100 percent qualify for free and reduced lunch.

#### **Description of Instructional Model**

The Literacy Team is investigating research-based reading programs. Some of our teachers have received Visual Phonics training and are using this as a strategy. Our team plans on making site visits to programs who are successfully teaching reading and writing to students who are deaf/hard of hearing, comparing available commercial programs, and a review of available technology related to teaching reading.

#### **Instructional Methods**

#### **Instructional Materials**

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#### **Designated Teachers**

The team will include four teachers of students who are deaf/hard of hearing. Two of these teachers are literacy teachers who are responsible for working with teachers and students to improve students' reading and writing skills. In addition, one teacher has a classroom of elementary students and another is responsible for working with teachers and students in public schools. A principal, an assistant principal, and a speech language pathologist will also be involved in the initial phase of the project. When one or more strategies are selected, all teachers at both NCSD and ENCSD will be involved in project implementation and professional development.