

KRESA Audiology Services Report for 2024-2025 School Year

June 6, 2025

Number of Hearing Tests by Location	
Service Center diagnostic hearing evaluations	104
Early Childhood monthly hearing screenings at West Campus	53
Head Start hearing screenings in classrooms	263
Total Number of Hearing Evaluations/Screenings	420

Students Newly Identified with Hearing Loss	
Conductive (temporary)	20
Sensorineural (permanent)	8
Total	28

On-Site Audiological Services

Throughout the school year, the audiologist and audiology assistant conducted regular visits to classrooms across the county to support students who are Deaf or hard of hearing. These on-site services play a critical role in ensuring students have access to the tools and support necessary for academic success. Services provided included:

- Maintenance and troubleshooting of hearing aids, hearing assistive technology (HAT), cochlear implants, and bone-anchored hearing aids (BAHA)
- Assessment of students' needs for assistive technology
- Programming, verification, and fitting of HAT systems
- Delivery of direct instruction focused on self-advocacy skills for Center-based DHH students
- Taking earmold impressions for hearing aids
- Conducting otoscopy and middle ear screenings
- Participation in Individualized Education Program (IEP) meetings
- Consultation with school staff regarding best practices for supporting DHH students
- Functional Listening Evaluations

Total number of student contacts for
on-site services = **764**

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Progress on Audiology Clinic Growth Opportunities

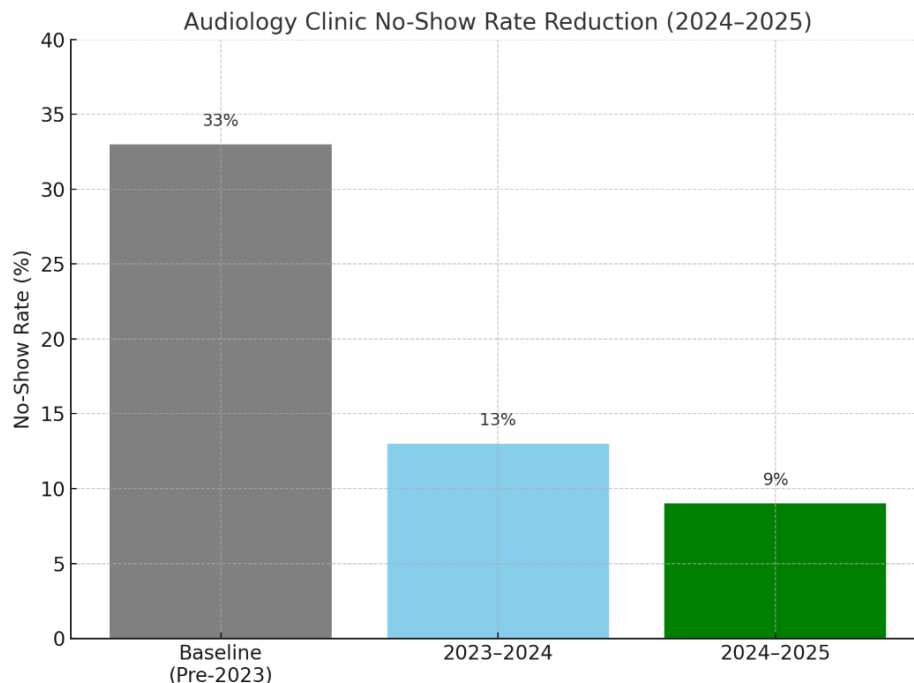
Goal: Reduce No-Show Rate for Audiology Clinic Appointments

In an effort to improve clinic attendance and reduce missed appointments, the audiology clinic implemented a text reminder system at the beginning of the 2023–2024 school year. This system sends appointment reminders to parents via text message ahead of scheduled visits.

Results:

- **Baseline (prior to 2023–2024):** The no-show rate was 33%.
- **2023–2024 School Year (after text reminders implemented):** The no-show rate dropped significantly to 13%.
- **2024–2025 School Year:** The no-show rate further decreased to 9%, marking a sustained improvement over two years.

This indicates that the text reminder system has been an effective strategy in promoting attendance and improving clinic efficiency.



Goal: Increase awareness of the KRESA Audiology Clinic

Due to staff turnover in both local districts and KRESA programs, there is reduced awareness of the KRESA Audiology Clinic and its referral process. As a result, fewer students are being referred for suspected hearing loss.

Action Steps:

- Audiology Services staff presented on KRESA Audiology Services and the hearing referral process at a regional special education directors meeting.
- Audiology Services staff presented at Comstock Schools SPED staff and Eastern Service Area Special Education Administrators on audiology services, early identification, and referral pathways.
- Audiology Services staff participated in Kindergarten Round-Up events at Galesburg-Augusta and Parchment Schools to educate families on hearing health and early intervention.
- Audiology Services staff provided family education and outreach at Head Start Family Night, emphasizing the importance of early hearing evaluations and available support services.
- KRESA Audiology Services partnered with Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services staff to identify students with hearing loss.

Goal for 2025-2026:

- Continue outreach with Eastern Service Area and KRESA Head Start.
- Continue collaboration with Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services.
- Meet with Kalamazoo Public Schools and Southern Service Area speech language pathologists, school psychologists, and teaching staff to educate them on audiology services, early identification, and referral pathways.