

Request an ASTra™ Advocate

Name

Address

City/Zip

Phone

Email

Is it okay if we text you?
 Yes No

ASTra Advocacy Support service is free to members of Michigan Hands & Voices. Annual membership is \$20 for families/\$40 for professionals. Scholarships are available. Membership is available on our website.

ASTra Advocates have been trained through the Hands & Voices ASTra Educational Advocacy Program as lay advocates. ASTra Advocates provide information and support to parents who have requested educational advocacy and support. ASTra Advocates do not provide legal advice, or represent that their advice equates to legal counsel. Nothing in the relationship between the parent requesting support and the ASTra advocate should be construed as legal advice. Hands & Voices strongly recommends that anyone seeking legal advice get an attorney.

Contact us/Join us

By Mail:

Michigan Hands & Voices
P.O. Box 71038
Rochester Hills, MI 48307

Or By Web:

www.mihandsandvoices.org

Or By Email:

mihandsandvoices@gmail.com

Or By Phone or Text:

248-845-8762



HANDS &
VOICES™
MICHIGAN

The ASTra program is funded by a Carls Foundation grant and private donations.



ASTra™

Advocacy Support & TRAINING

for families of children who are
Deaf or Hard of Hearing, and
those who work with them



ADVOCACY
SUPPORT &
TRAINING

A free program for members of:



HANDS &
VOICES™
MICHIGAN



Advocating for a child who is DHH

A child who is Deaf or Hard of Hearing (DHH) may need services and/or accommodations to receive a free and appropriate public education (FAPE). *Educational advocacy* is the process of working with the child's educational team to create a plan to meet those needs.

For a parent of a DHH student, advocating for one's child can be challenging and time-consuming. Many parents need help at some point along the journey.

"Mission Accomplished! The school is providing some great supports and we are seeing good progress." -Parent

Who we are

Our ASTra™ team is made up of parents, professionals, and DHH individuals who have experience advocating for children who are DHH. We are trained specifically in educational laws and special considerations for DHH students. We uphold the Hands & Voices mission of unbiased support regardless of communication mode or school placement.



How we can help

Advocacy Support

An ASTra Advocate is a lay advocate who will work alongside you as you advocate for your child's educational needs. It may be phone support or in-person visits. The advocate may attend an IEP or Section 504 meeting with you if needed.



We want to help you build trust and collaboration with your child's educational team. Contact us to be matched with an ASTra Advocate. Currently, Advocacy Support is free to members of Michigan Hands & Voices.

Advocacy TRAINing

We offer one-day workshops for parents, professionals, and DHH individuals to learn more about basic educational advocacy skills and concepts. These workshops are designed specifically for DHH concerns. Michigan Hands & Voices members receive notices of training opportunities through email.



Membership in Michigan Hands & Voices™

We support families of children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing, regardless of the communication mode. We are a parent-led organization, made up of parents, professionals, and DHH individuals.

"What works for your child is what makes the choice right!" ©

Member benefits

- Unbiased support
- Guide By Your Side™
- ASTra™ Advocacy Support & Training
- Events
- Legislative advocacy
- Local area Meet-N-Greets
- Email updates
- National and state newsletters

