Public Law 99-371 - Education of the Deaf Act

This 1986 Act (PL 99-371) authorizes Gallaudet University, the National Technical Institute for the Deaf, and two model schools: the Model Secondary School for the Deaf, and the Kendall Demonstration Elementary School, both of which are situated on the campus of Gallaudet University. The EDA also includes a provision that requires the Department of Education to monitor and evaluate the educational programs and activities, as well as the administrative operations of Gallaudet and NTID (Towards Equality report, 1988). The EDA authorizes and mandates national studies on deaf and hard of hearing students, including those in postsecondary education. Through this law, the Commission on Education of the Deaf was formed and this Commission wrote and released a report “Towards Equality” (cited above) which served as an invaluable resource in education of the deaf for a number of years. This 1988 report was followed by a 1991 book, “Approaching Equality: Education of the Deaf”, written by Frank Bowe, chair of the Commission on Education of the Deaf which provided an update on the positive progress made due to the "Towards Equality" report, and then by subsequent reports by the National Center for Education Statistics and the Postsecondary Education Programs Network National Research Agenda committee.