

## Visual “Red Flag” Behaviors in Students who are Deaf

### When Student is in Motion

- Shuffles feet
- Gait/stance is wider than typical
- Trails the wall, lockers, desk with fingers
- Acts like a "wallflower", hangs back, scans environment for visual information before entering
- Looks down for information at feet
- Bumps into things and people
- Has a high startle response, especially when touched or waved to in front of face
- Appears "clumsy" or uncoordinated
- Has difficulty in Physical Education/dance/sports classes

### When Student is Participating in a Signed Conversation

- Asks for repetition
- Seems to “miss the point” and misses the bouncing back and forth of conversation
- Disengages, doesn't pay attention, drops out of the conversation

### When Student is in a Lesson

- Hold materials either rather close or far away from face
- Holds materials or tilts head at an angle
- Sits very close to the teacher/board or in back of room
- Reacts when lights are dimmed for film or smart board viewing

### Physical Aspects/Behaviors

- Rubs eyes a lot
- Eyes tear often
- Excessive blinking
- Wears sunglasses often
- Wears hat with brim (even indoors)
- Reacts when things are "out of place"

### Etiology Red Flags

- Parents with Usher Syndrome
- Siblings; both profoundly deaf, one confirmed with Usher or retinitis pigmentosa
- CHARGE Syndrome
- Congenital Rubella Syndrome
- Place of origin; deaf from Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, Caribbean Islands