

*If you have any questions,
please do not hesitate to contact
us.*

Audiologist's Name: _____

Audiologist's Phone Number: _____

HES Teacher's Name: _____



HES Teacher's Phone Number: _____

HES Supervisor's Name: _____


HES Supervisor's Phone Number: _____

Hearing Education Services
400 First Avenue
Room 715
New York, NY 10010
Phone: 917-256-4224 (V/TTY)
Fax: 212-889-3510



 **New York City
Department of
Education** 

**WHY IS AN FM
SYSTEM
NECESSARY FOR
STUDENTS WITH
HEARING LOSS?**

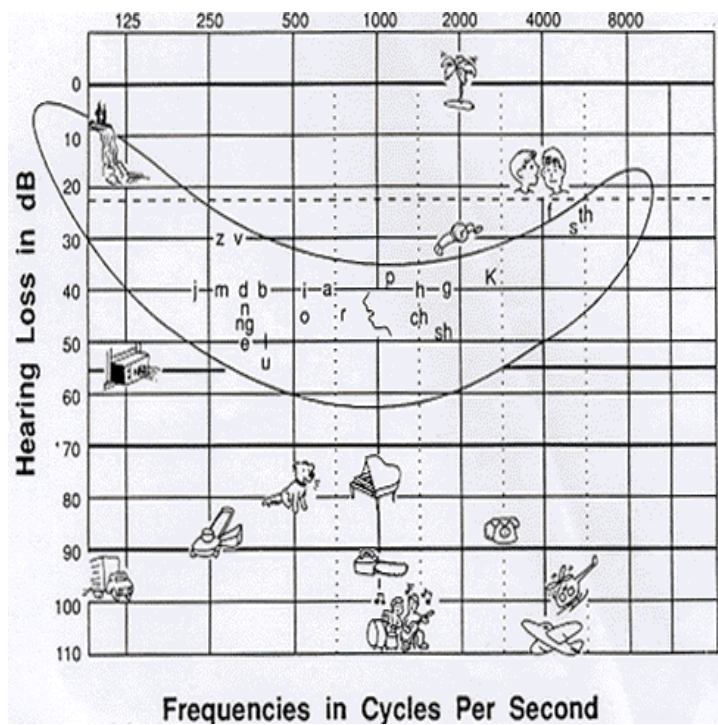


**A Guide for Classroom
Teachers**

Joel Klein, Chancellor New York City Department of Education
Bonnie Brown, Superintendent District 75
Helen Kaufman, Administrative Assistant Superintendent District 75

a student in your class, has a

This can be illustrated using the following graph known as an audiogram:



X = Left Ear

O = Right Ear

The sounds above the "X's" and "O's" are the sounds the student cannot hear. Because of this, the student is required to use an FM system.

- **What is an FM System?**

- An FM system is a battery-operated wireless one-way walkie-talkie on a specific radio channel. These channels are similar to the channels on your radio at home or in your car, but are set aside for individuals with hearing impairment. The teacher wears an FM microphone to relay auditory information, while the student uses FM receiver/s to listen to the teacher.

- **The FM system is necessary because:**

- The majority of teachers move around the classroom throughout the school day. As the distance between the teacher and the student increases the level of the teacher's voice decreases.
- The teacher's voice is also masked over by noise, no matter what the noise level. Noise within and outside the classroom contributes to poor speech understanding. Students with hearing impairment have even more difficulty in noise than students with normal hearing. Speaking louder only makes already distorted speech even more distorted.
- Reverberation of sound in the classroom creates even more difficulty for students with hearing loss.
- Hearing aids and cochlear implants make everything louder including noise. The sounds closest to the device will receive more

emphasis no matter what.

- Students with hearing loss work harder to hear than their peers with normal hearing. As a result, they have less available "mental energy" to listen and comprehend what the teacher is saying.

- **The FM unit overcomes these obstacles by:**

- Reducing the listening distance between the teacher and the student. The teacher is always within 6 inches of the student because of where the microphone is placed.
- Emphasizing the teacher's voice. The FM microphone makes the teacher's voice louder than the noise and reverberation.
- Improving mental energy. The FM system allows for less listening stress.

- **Strategies for Effective FM System Use**

- Making sure your microphone is on.
- Making sure your microphone is in the right place (6 inches from your mouth).
- Making sure the student has their receiver/s on their ear/s properly and are turned on.
- Making sure the student understands both the academic and monetary value of their equipment.
- Charging the equipment properly.
- Requesting in-service/training when needed.