

Letter from Alexander Graham Bell to James E. Gallagher, January 5, 1902

50 January 5, 1902. Mr. James E. Gallaher, Principal, Evansville School for the Deaf, Evansville, Indiana. Dear Mr. Gallaher:

Your note of December 30th received. I am very glad to know that it is proposed that the Board of Education of the City of Evansville shall furnish a room for a class of deaf children, and that any deaf child from any part of the State can be admitted.

I think it is good policy on the part of the State to encourage the growth of day schools for deaf children, but I doubt the wisdom of asking the State Legislature for an appropriation for a specific locality. A grant to favor one locality would, as a rule, be opposed by representatives from other localities.

In my opinion it would be better to provide for Indiana a general law aiding day schools for the deaf in any part of the State similar to the day school laws of Wisconsin, Illinois, and Michigan. Ohio, too, I think, has such an act — Why not Indiana?

While, therefore, I wish you every success in your movement, I think you would be more likely to be successful by asking for a general law for the whole State than for an appropriation in support of the Evansville Day School. I cannot undertake to initiate legislation on this matter, nor will it be possible for me to visit Indiana this winter.

Yours sincerely, Alexander Graham Bell