

APPROVAL OF EDUCATIONAL INTERPRETERS FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Where can I find the requirements for educational interpreters?

The rules regarding requirements for educational interpreters can be accessed on our website at this address: www.isbe.net/rules/archive/pdfs/25ark.pdf. Educational interpreter rules can be found in Section 25.550 (p.187) of this document.

How can I apply for approval as an educational interpreter?

The Request for Approval as an Educational Interpreter can be accessed on our website at this address: www.isbe.net/certification/pdf/77-35_interpreter.pdf.

Who is considered an educational interpreter?

The term “educational interpreter” applies to anyone whose job entails the facilitation of communication between students who are deaf or hard of hearing and individuals who are hearing. The title of the individual will have no bearing upon this requirement. So, whether the individual has the title of “aide,” “interpreter”, “assistant” or “teacher”, if it is their responsibility to facilitate communication as noted, then he or she must meet these requirements.

Will a certified teacher of the deaf/hard of hearing have to meet these requirements?

- In the capacity of working directly with his or her students, a teacher certified in the area of deaf/hard of hearing (D/HH) will not have to meet these requirements.
- A D/HH certified teacher who is asked to interpret on an emergency basis (2 or 3 times a year) will not have to meet the requirements for educational interpreters.
- A D/HH certified teacher who regularly interprets for a student (e.g. Biology every day, therapy twice a week, etc.) must meet the requirements for educational interpreters.
- If a district has interpreters on staff, but regularly uses D/HH certified teachers as substitutes when an interpreter is absent, then the D/HH teachers would have to meet the requirements for educational interpreters.
- In co-teaching situations, if it is the D/HH certified teacher’s responsibility to interpret for the general education teacher, then the D/HH certified teacher must meet the requirements for educational interpreters.

Do substitute interpreters need to meet these requirements?

Yes, substitute interpreters must meet the requirements for approval.

Do individuals who are already employed as educational interpreters have to meet the requirements in the rule?

Yes. However, those employed in that capacity prior to July 1, 2006, will have until July 1, 2007, to meet the requirements. (Those employed on or after July 1, 2006, must meet the requirements at the time of their employment.)

How do I arrange to take the Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment (EIPA)?

EIPA testing for interpreters is facilitated by the Illinois Deaf and Hard of Hearing Commission (IDHHC), as part of their statutory responsibility for all interpreters for the deaf. Information regarding EIPA testing dates through the IDHHC can be accessed via their website at this address:

www.idhhc.state.il.us/interpreter/interpretestesting.htm.

Where can I learn more about the EIPA?

- You can visit their website at www.classroominterpreting.org.
- You may also want to contact the Highlighting Education and Resources project, which is focused on providing information and training for educational interpreters. Their website is www.morgan.k12.il.us/hear/index.htm.

If you have additional questions, please contact Barbara Sims at 217/782-5589 or bsims@isbe.net.