

Substitute Sign Language Interpreters In PK-12 Settings January 2013

***Audience:
Administrators (AEA/LEA);
IEP Team Members, including Parents***

Substitute Interpreter Information

Any person who interprets or transliterates in Iowa must be licensed. However, there is an exception for substitute interpreters in school settings. Any person working as a substitute for a licensed interpreter in an early childhood, elementary, or secondary education setting may work without an Iowa license for no more than 30 school days in a calendar year. A day is defined as any time, no matter how long, in any given day spent in the school providing interpretation or transliterating services for a student.

According to the Assistant Attorney General's interpretation, a person with an inactive license can substitute in a school using the exception in 154E.4(d). Under this interpretation, a person who does not hold a license, or has an inactive license, may work as a substitute for a licensed interpreter in an early childhood, elementary, or secondary education setting for no more than thirty school days in a calendar year. Any portion of a day, whether 10 minutes or 10 hours, is considered one day.

An interpreter with an inactive license may not substitute for a vacant position.

For each student that has an educational interpreter, the IEP team should have a substitute plan for absences. If a substitute interpreter is not available, the IEP team should consider the advantages and disadvantages of using remote video interpreting, speech-to-text services, or the services of a notetaker. See "Additional Information" on page 3.

Where Do I Find an Interpreter?

The Iowa State Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (ISRID) website has a searchable listing of Iowa licensed interpreters at <http://new.iowastaterid.org/> click on 'Interpreter Search.' You may search for a licensed interpreter within a radius of your community or by last name. Phone numbers are included. The data for this listing is based on the public data file provided by the Iowa Board of Sign Language Interpreters and Translitterators.

You can also search for a licensee at www.licensediniowa.gov. If you would like a copy of that raw data file, it is available at

https://eservices.iowa.gov/ibpl/index.php?pgname=data_download. Click on 'Instructions for use of downloaded file.'

Here are some known sites where you can advertise to hire an interpreter on a part-time or full-time basis:

- ISRID Job Listings (free) - fill out a free request through the ISRID job listings by clicking on 'Community' and then 'Job Listings' (http://new.iowastaterid.org/Post_a_Job.php). The request will be sent out to all ISRID members.
- Teach Iowa! at www.iowaeducationjobs.com (free). The position "Educational Interpreter" is listed under "Special Education Related and Support Services (Area Education Agencies and Some School Districts)."
- DeafEd.Net www.deafed.net under 'Jobs/Resumes.' This is a national site. You must be a registered user in order to use the site. There is no cost to register. Currently, the cost for posting one opening is \$150.
- An interpreter-specific website where you can advertise for a nominal fee is <http://www.terpjobs.com/>

Iowa has three, two-year Interpreter Training Programs. Contact them with your job vacancies:

- Iowa Western Community College
Carolyn Cool ccool@iwcc.edu
1-800/432-5852 x3203 or 712/325-3203
http://www.iwcc.edu/Academic_Programs/program.asp?id=signlangaas
- Kirkwood Community College
Linda Krog lkrog@kirkwood.edu
319/398-5480
<http://www.kirkwood.edu/site/index.php?d=519>
- Scott Community College
Elizabeth Huntley ehuntley@eicc.edu
563/441-4240
<http://www.eicc.edu/highschool/programs/career/education/signlanguage/index.html>

You can search for neighboring states Interpreter Training Programs at www.rid.org in order to recruit. On the left side of the page, click on 'Find Interpreter Education Programs.'

How to Verify a License

It is the interpreter's responsibility to meet all licensing requirements. As an employer, it is your responsibility to ensure employees hold a current and active license.

Go to www.licensediniowa.gov and select 'License Search.' Insert a name or license number. Select 'Sign Language Interpreters and Transliterators' from the dropdown list. You may print a copy of the licensure status by selecting 'Print.' Verify that the status is 'Active.'

Disclaimer: The Bureau of Professional Licensure is responsible for maintaining all of the information on the website, including licensure information and public disciplinary action. The information provided on the website is the same information provided through verbal and mail verification, and is true and complete to the best of their knowledge. The professional boards require primary source verification of credentials prior to issuing a license in this state.

Additional Information:

Remote video interpreting uses web-based technology to access to sign language interpreting services when an onsite interpreter is not available. Needed equipment include: a computer, webcam and a high-speed broadband connection. A variety of companies, nationwide, provide this service. Some charge by the minute or you may investigate a daily price. This type of interpreting works best with high school students and lecture classes.

Speech-to-text services deliver spoken text on a computer screen. It may be done with a captioner in the room, or with remote services which requires an internet connection, telephone and computer. More information on Speech-to-text services is in the document entitled 'Speech-To-Text Services' on the Iowa Department of Education website http://educateiowa.gov/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=584&Itemid=1608

- Different speech-to-text services What is speech- to- text? What is the difference between CART, C-Print, and TypeWell? <http://www.pepnet.org/resources/faq04>
- Speech to Text Services: An Overview of Real-Time Captioning <http://www.pepnet.org/resources/speech-to-text>

Notetaker services could be an option considered when sign language interpreter services are not available. There is a 90-minute online training available on the PEPNet website <http://www.pepnet.org/e-learning/notetaker>. Notetaker candidates learn effective notetaking strategies and complete the training at their convenience. At the end, notetakers receive a printed certificate. The outcome of this training will be improved quality of notes for students who are deaf and hard of hearing. Although this training is geared for postsecondary students, it could be used with other populations such as paraeducators and school administrative assistants.