Substitute Educational Interpreters August 2009

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.

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" below.

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 www.iowastaterid.org click on 'interpreter search.' The data for this listing is based on the public data file provided by the Iowa Board of Sign Language Interpreters and Transliterators. If you would like a copy of that raw data file, it is available from the Board's website at www.licensediniowa.gov. They also provide their own search service based on last name or license number. This listing is an unofficial listing based on public data released by the Board.

If you want to hire an interpreter on a part-time or full-time basis, you can fill out a request (free) through the ISRID job listings at www.iowastaterid.org/joblisting. The request will be sent out to all ISRID members.

How to Verify a 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.' The phrase 'licensed by' will be followed by either 'exam or 'other.' A person licensed by 'exam' has passed one of the exams required for licensing. A person licensed by 'other' has not passed an exam and has a temporary license.

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.

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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.

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."

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 www.pepnet.org/training.asp. 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 teacher associates and school administrative assistants.