

Hiring Interpreters

August 2009

Audience:
Administrators (AEA/LEA);
IEP Teams, including Parents

Licensing requirements

All interpreters and transliterators must be licensed in Iowa by the Board of Sign Language Interpreters and Translitterators, Board of Professional Licensure, Iowa Department of Public Health

http://www.idph.state.ia.us/licensure/board_home.asp?board=ihl

A licensee who practices as an interpreter in the state of Iowa with no license or an inactive license may be subject to disciplinary action by the board, injunctive action pursuant to Iowa Code section 147.83, criminal sanctions pursuant to Iowa Code section 147.86, and other available legal remedies.

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 Translitterators" 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.

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 Translitterators. If you would like a copy of that raw data file, it is available from the Board's website at

<https://eservices.iowa.gov/licensediniowa/index.php?pgname=pubsearch>. 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.

Two additional free resources are:

- Teach Iowa! at www.iowaeducationjobs.com
- DeafEd.Net www.deafed.net under 'Professional Postings'

Iowa has four Interpreter Training Programs:

- Des Moines Area Community College
Steve Young
515/964-6524
styoung@dmacc.edu
- Iowa Western Community College
Carolyn Cool
1-800/432-5852 x3203 or 712/325-3203
ccool@iwcc.edu
www.iwcc.cc.ia.us
- Kirkwood Community College
Linda Krog
319/398-5480
lkrog@kirkwood.edu
www.kirkwood.cc.ia.us
- Scott Community College
Elizabeth Huntley
563/441-4240
ehuntley@eicc.edu

You can search for nearby state's Interpreter Training Programs at www.rid.org/acct-app/index.cfm?action=search.ITP

The Northeast Technical Assistance Center's (NETAC) tip sheet on hiring a qualified interpreter. http://www.netac.rit.edu/downloads/TPSHT_Hire_Qual_Interp.pdf -

Most of the popular job search sites (Monster, CareerBuilder, SimplyHired, etc.) have specific listings for sign language interpreters. There are also these sites that cater directly to interpreters.

- www.hiresl.com
- www.terpnetwork.com
- www.terpjobs.com

Pre-Hire Interpreting Skills Screening

At times, school districts will have applicants who have a temporary license but have not yet taken the Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment (EIPA). The EIPA assesses interpreting skills from a level 0.0 (low) to 5.0 (high). For more information see www.classroominterpreting.org. The EIPA Diagnostic Center at Boys Town National Research Hospital offers immediate screening of interpreters through its Pre-Hire Screening Version of the Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment.

The Pre-Hire Screening is intended as a rapid means of obtaining an overall rating of an applicant's skills. It is not intended as an in-depth assessment and will not meet state requirements for a full EIPA assessment. It is intended to help administrators make a quick decision regarding hire. If an interpreter receives a "*Skills at or above the required level*" rating, it does not mean that the interpreter can meet a state's minimal requirements.

Most schools can hire without any assessment information, however, many school districts would prefer to have some information about the interpreter's skills prior to hiring in order to ensure access and a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) for a student. The Pre-Hire Screening version of the EIPA can provide schools general feedback about the interpreter's skills within 72 hours. The full EIPA assessment procedure can take about three months to receive results.

The Pre-Hire Screening rates three broad categories of skills rather than providing numeric scores. Interpreters may receive a rating that shows skills at least at a minimum standard, indicating that the school can safely hire. The interpreter may be in a "Hire-With-Caution" category, indicating that while the interpreter has some good skills, a full EIPA evaluation is needed to determine whether minimum standards are met. Finally, the interpreter may receive a rating indicating that hiring is not recommended because the interpreter could not meet minimum standards using a full EIPA assessment. Schools are advised of the overall competency of an applicant in a more general, versus diagnostic manner.

Like the full EIPA, the EIPA Pre-Hire Screening is designed for candidates applying for elementary or secondary interpreter positions. It features student/teen signing models using American Sign Language (ASL), Pidgin Sign English (PSE) or Manually Coded English (MCE). Signing Exact English (SEEII) and Signed English are types of MCE. Schools can contact the EIPA Diagnostic Center to request testing materials. Materials are sent overnight. Upon receipt of the candidate's screening tape, the EIPA Diagnostic Center will provide candidate results in a 72-hour time frame.

To arrange for a Pre-Hire Screening, contact:

Mary Patterson, EIPA Diagnostic Center, Boys Town National Research Hospital

Email: patter@boystown.org

Phone: 402 452-5059

For more information, see

<http://www.classroominterpreting.org/EIPA/prehire/index.asp>