

Hiring Sign Language Interpreters January 2013

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

Licensing requirements

All sign language interpreters and transliterators must hold an active license in Iowa. Licensing is by the Iowa Board of Sign Language Interpreters and Translitterators, Board of Professional Licensure, Iowa Department of Public Health (see <http://www.idph.state.ia.us/licensure/>).

Any person who practices as an interpreter in the state of Iowa without a license or with 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 (IAC 361.5(7)).

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.

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

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 the 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. There is a nominal fee to post openings. 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 openings:

- 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=signlanguaas
- 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. On the left side of the page, click on 'Find Interpreter Education Programs.'

How to Verify a License

You can search for a license at www.licensediniowa.gov. This site indicates whether an interpreter holds a temporary license as well as if an interpreter holds an active 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.

The Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment (EIPA)

The Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment (EIPA) is a valid and reliable test which assesses interpreting skills, expressive and receptive, in educational settings. The EIPA evaluated 38 discrete skills within four major areas: Voice-to-Sign, Sign-to-Voice, Vocabulary, and Overall Factors. Interpreters receive an overall score between 0.1 (low) to 5.0 (high). A score of 3.5 or higher is required to obtain licensed by examination status in Iowa. Interpreters may take other assessments to become licensed by examination; however, most interpreters working in the educational setting take the EIPA. They take it for two reasons: 1) to receive diagnostic feedback in areas to improve and 2) to become licensed by examination.

Iowa is a member with a consortium of states in the Training and Assessment Systems for K-12 Educational Interpreters (TASK-12, www.task12.org). See the website for current testing dates and locations as well as registration information. The current price to take the EIPA is \$310.

The EIPA Diagnostic Center also offers an EIPA-Written Test. This assesses knowledge, rather than skills. Both are an important part of the interpreting process. Although some states require the EIPA-Written Test, Iowa does not require it. The current cost of the written test is \$200. For more information about the EIPA Written Test and Knowledge Standards: <http://www.classroominterpreting.org/eipa/standards/index.asp>.

Pre-Hire Interpreting Skills Screening

There are situations where a school district may have an applicant who does not yet hold a license to interpret in Iowa or who has not yet taken the Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment (EIPA). The EIPA Diagnostic Center at Boys Town National Research Hospital offers a quick turn-around, pre-hire skills screening to assist schools in obtaining a general overview of an applicant's interpreting skills.

"Many school districts must have information about the skill level of the interpreter more quickly than the full EIPA assessment procedure can provide. Most schools can hire without any assessment information and even in the states that require certification, schools can receive an emergency credential, similar to all other certified professional categories. However, many school districts would prefer to have some information about the interpreter's skills prior to hiring in order to ensure access for a student and to avoid disruption in the middle of the school year. The Pre-Hire Screening version of the EIPA can provide schools general feedback about the interpreter's skills."

Boys Town EIPA Diagnostic Center will review a video recording and suggest to the school district whether to hire or not hire, or hire with caution. This is not a diagnostic

evaluation. The current cost of the pre-hire screening is \$100. For more information, see <http://www.classroominterpreting.org/EIPA/prehire/index.asp>