



State of New Jersey

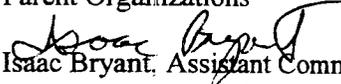
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
PO Box 500
TRENTON, NJ 08625-0500

JAMES E. MCGREEVEY
Governor

WILLIAM L. LIBRERA
Commissioner

September 29, 2004

To: Chief School Administrators
County Superintendents
Directors of Special Services
Administrators of Programs for Students who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing
County Supervisors of Child Study
Directors of Private Schools for Students with Disabilities
College Operated Programs
Receiving Schools
Regional Day Schools
State Facilities
Parent Organizations

From: 
Isaac Bryant, Assistant Commissioner
Division of Student Services

Subject: Certification of Educational Interpreters

In December 2003, the New Jersey Administrative Code 6A:9, Professional Licensure and Standards, was adopted by the State Board of Education. This administrative code includes a new certification for educational interpreters who provide sign language interpreting, oral interpreting, or cued speech transliteration as a related service for students who are deaf, hard of hearing, or deaf-blind in grades preschool through 12. Requirements for emergency certification are outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A:9 Subchapter 13:18 (e)-(g) and the requirements for standard certification through a performance route or an academic route are outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A:9 Subchapter 13.18 (a)-(d).

The Office of Licensure and Credentials, in collaboration with the Office of Special Education Programs has prepared an amendment to N.J.A.C. 6A:9 Subchapter 13.18. This amendment is currently under review by the State Board of Education. Within this amendment are the timelines for implementation of this new certification, and changes to the requirements for emergency certification. According to the amendment, all educational interpreters must achieve either emergency certification or standard certification by September 2005. Rather than requiring an associates degree or certification from a national accrediting agency for emergency certification, this amendment proposes a minimum of a high school diploma or GED and a passing score on a performance assessment. Emergency certificates are issued for the duration of one year and may be renewed twice. No educational interpreters will be grandfathered into the new certification.

Based upon this amendment, all educational interpreters would need to obtain standard certification by June 2008. Standard certification may be achieved through an academic route or a performance route. The academic route requires an associates degree or higher, a passing score on a performance assessment, and the completion of fifteen semester hours of professional education coursework which will include the topic areas of child development, language development, curriculum and instruction, methodology of instruction, deaf-blind interpreting and legal and ethical issues of interpreting.

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The performance route is for individuals who have a high school diploma or GED and a national certificate in interpreting/transliteration from a national accrediting agency. Candidates pursuing the performance route must also have a passing score on a performance assessment and complete the fifteen semester hours of professional education coursework which will include the topic areas of child development, language development, curriculum and instruction, methodology of instruction, deaf-blind interpreting, and legal and ethical issues of interpreting. The amendment to N.J.A.C. 6A:9 13.18 (a)-(g), which is currently being considered, is attached for your review.

In order to assist educational interpreters with meeting these certification requirements, the Office of Special Education Programs has established two Educational Interpreter Professional Development Centers (EIPDCs) through a discretionary grant project. The northern EIPDC is located at Union County College on the Plainfield campus. The southern EIPDC is located at Camden County College on the Blackwood campus. The contact information for each EIPDC is attached.

Each EIPDC offers performance assessments to currently employed educational interpreters and substitute educational interpreters in sign language, oral interpreting, and/or cued speech transliteration at no charge. Following receipt of their performance assessment scores and/or reports, educational interpreters have the opportunity to participate in the advisement and professional development services of the EIPDC in order to develop their performance skills.

In January 2005, the EIPDCs will offer an additional advisement service of college/university transcript(s) review. This service will assist educational interpreters with their choice of either the academic or performance route for standard certification. A transcript review will also be available to determine if the educational interpreter has fulfilled the fifteen semester hour credits of professional educational coursework. The EIPDCs will offer the fifteen semester hour coursework sequence in 2005. The educational interpreters may enroll in the courses they need at the EIPDCs or at another accredited college or university.

It is anticipated that the amendments regarding the implementation of the new certification will be adopted within the next few months. If the educational interpreters you employ have not yet participated in the services offered by the EIPDCs, I encourage them to do so as soon as possible. It is important to note that educational interpreters may access the services at either center.

If you or your staff members have any additional questions regarding certification or the role and function of the EIPDCs, please feel free to contact Ms. Therese Sheehan, coordinator of educational programs for students who are deaf/hard of hearing, Office of Special Education Programs at (609) 633-7665 Voice or (609) 984-8432 TTY.

IB/BG/TS

Attachments

c: Members, State Board of Education

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Contact Information

Educational Interpreter Professional Development Centers

Northern Educational Interpreter Professional Development Center
Union County College
232 East Second Street
Plainfield, NJ 07060
Phone: (908) 791-4935
TTY: (908) 412-0294
E-mail: clwilliams@ucc.edu
Coordinator: Ms. Cynthia Williams
Website: www.ucc.edu/eipdc

Southern Educational Interpreter Professional Development Center
Camden County College
P.O. Box 200
College Drive
Blackwood, NJ 08012
Phone: (856) 227-7200 ext 4746
TTY: Same
E-mail: jlcohen@camdencc.edu
Coordinator: Ms. Joan Cohen
Website: www.camdencc.edu/eipdc

Note: Interpreters may receive assessments/services at either center.

6A:9-13.18 Educational interpreter

- (a) Effective September 1, 2005, [The] the educational interpreter endorsement is required for individuals who provide educational interpreting services, sign language interpreting, oral interpreting or cued speech transliteration to students who are deaf, hard of hearing or deaf-blind in grades preschool through 12.
- (b) To be eligible for the standard educational services certificate with a sign language interpreting endorsement, a candidate shall:
1. Hold an associate or higher degree from a regionally accredited college or university and complete the following:
 - i. The Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment (EIPA) with a minimum score of three; and
 - ii. 15 semester hour credits of professional education coursework that includes study in child development, language development, curriculum development, methods of instruction, interpreting for visually impaired or blind students and legal and ethical issues for educational interpreters. Such study may be part of the degree program or in addition to the degree program and may be completed at an accredited two year college; or

2. Have a high school diploma or a General Education Diploma (GED), demonstrated interpreting skills as evidenced through the possession of a sign language certificate from the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, the National Association of the Deaf or other Department-approved national accrediting agencies for sign language interpreting and complete the following:

- i. The EIPA with a minimum score of three; and
- ii. Fifteen semester hour credits of professional education coursework that includes study in child development, language development, curriculum development, interpreting for visually-impaired or blind students, legal and ethical issues for educational interpreters and methods of instruction. The study may be completed at an accredited two-year college.

(c) To be eligible for the standard educational services certificate with an oral interpreting endorsement, a candidate shall:

1. Have a high school diploma, a GED or an associate or higher degree;
2. Demonstrate interpreting skills as evidenced through the possession of an oral interpreting certificate from a Department-approved accrediting agency; and

3. Complete fifteen semester hour credits of professional education coursework that includes study in child development, language development, curriculum development, interpreting for visually-impaired or blind students, legal and ethical issues for educational interpreters and methods of instruction. The study may be completed at an accredited two-year college.

(d) To be eligible for the standard educational services certificate with a cued speech transliteration endorsement, a candidate shall:

1. Have a high school diploma, a GED or an associate or higher degree;
2. Demonstrate interpreting skills as evidenced through the possession of a cued speech transliteration certificate from a Department-approved accrediting agency; and
3. Complete fifteen semester hour credits of professional education coursework that includes study in child development, language development, curriculum development, interpreting for visually-impaired or blind students, legal and ethical issues for educational interpreters and methods of instruction. The study may be completed at an accredited two-year college.

- (e) An emergency educational interpreter certificate in sign language interpreting may be issued to a candidate [who meets the academic degree or diploma requirements at (b)1 or 2 above] with a high school diploma or GED and who has completed the EIPA with a minimum score of three.
- (f) An emergency educational interpreter certificate in oral interpreting may be issued to a candidate [who meets the academic degree or diploma requirements at (c)1 above] with a high school diploma or GED and who holds an oral interpreting certificate from a Department-approved accrediting agency.
- (g) An emergency educational interpreter certificate in cued speech transliteration may be issued to a candidate [who meets the academic degree or diploma requirements at (d)1 above] with a high school diploma or GE and who holds a cued speech transliteration certificate from a Department-approved accrediting agency.