



State of New Jersey

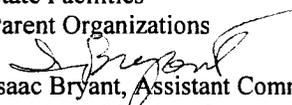
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
PO Box 500
TRENTON, NJ 08625-0500

RICHARD J. CODEY
Acting Governor

WILLIAM L. LIBRERA
Commissioner

June 27, 2005

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: Amendments to the Certification of Educational Interpreters

I am writing to inform you that Phase III of the amendments to New Jersey Administrative Code 6A:9, Professional Licensure and Standards, was approved by the State Board of Education at the March 2005 meeting. The Phase III amendments included changes to Subchapter 13.18, Educational Interpreter, by establishing timelines for the emergency certification of educational interpreters and changing the emergency certification requirements.

According to this approved amendment, all 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, must meet emergency certification requirements by September 1, 2005. Rather than requiring an associates degree or national certification for emergency certification, the amendment changes the emergency certification requirements to a minimum of a high school diploma or GED and a passing score on a performance assessment. A copy of the amendment is included for your review.

All educational interpreters should apply for emergency certification as soon as possible through the procedures established by the board of education in the district where they are employed. The educational interpreters should submit copies of their high school diploma or GED (or higher academic credentials) and a passing score on a performance assessment to their supervisors by August 1, 2005, so that the district superintendent may apply for the emergency certification through the county office of education.

Additional amendments to N.J.A.C. 6A:9-13.18 will be proposed by the Office of Licensing and will be included in Phase IV of the amendments to N.J.A.C. 6A:9. The proposed amendments will be submitted to the State Board of Education in August 2005 and will extend the timelines for standard certification of educational interpreters from September 1, 2008 to September 1, 2009. In most cases, the amendment process takes nine months from initial presentation to adoption.

While the proposed Phase IV amendments are being reviewed by the State Board of Education, educational interpreters have the option of pursuing the academic or performance routes to standard

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certification as outlined in my memo of September 29, 2004. A copy of this memo is also attached. As soon as the educational interpreters complete the requirements for standard certification, they may apply through the county offices of education where they reside or where they are employed.

Please be advised that the proposed Phase IV of the amendment to N.J.A.C. 6A:9 will also include requirements for substitute educational interpreters. Substitute educational interpreters will need to meet the emergency certification requirements of a minimum of a high school diploma/GED and a passing score on a performance assessment in order to provide educational interpreting as a related service to students from preschool through grade 12.

The Office of Special Education Programs has continued to support the preparation of educational interpreters for emergency and standard certification by funding the continuation phase of the Educational Interpreter Professional Development Centers (EIPDCs) at Union County College and Camden County College. In this second phase of this grant project, the EIPDCs will continue to offer performance assessments to educational interpreters and substitute educational interpreters at no charge. If the educational interpreters have not met a passing score on their initial performance assessment, a second performance assessment is available at no charge.

The EIPDCs will continue to offer professional skills improvement plans, workshops and lab modules to assist educational interpreters with their performance skills. Through the continuation grant, the EIPDCs are now offering an additional service of college/university transcript reviews. This service will assist educational interpreters with their choice of either the academic or performance route for standard certification.

In January 2005, the EIPDCs began to offer courses in the fifteen semester hour sequence of professional education coursework which is required for both the academic and the performance routes. These courses are offered on the Union County College Plainfield campus and the Camden County College Blackwood campus and at other regional sites off campus. By 2006, the EIPDCs will be offering several of the courses on-line and through interactive television. Educational interpreters may enroll in the courses at either EIPDC or at another regionally accredited college or university that has developed an approved fifteen credit program. For further information on the course offerings, please consult the EIPDC websites or contact the EIPDC staff. The contact information for the EIPDCs is included for dissemination among your educational interpreters.

If you need assistance with locating educational interpreters for a full-time position or a substitute position, or if you have any additional questions regarding the certification requirements, please contact Ms. Joan Cohen, project coordinator at Camden County College EIPDC at (856) 227-7200 extension 4560, or Ms. Cindy Williams, project coordinator at Union County College EIPDC at (908) 412-3574. The Interpreter Referral Service at the Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, New Jersey Department of Human Services, may also be able to provide you with a list of individuals who meet the emergency certification requirements. The contact information for the Interpreter Referral Service is (609) 984-7284.

IB/BG/TS

Attachments

c: Members, State Board of Education
Commissioner William L. Librera
Dwight Pfennig
Senior Staff
Kathryn Forsyth
Erika Leak
Barbara Gantwerk
Michael Klavon
Lois Smith
Cecelia Downey
Therese Sheehan
Members, LEE Group
Lynn Strickland, Garden State Coalition of Schools
Joan Cohen
Cindy Williams



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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 4560
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 GED and who holds a cued speech transliteration certificate from a Department-approved accrediting agency.