

MINNESOTA

Validity of Information	This information was reviewed and validated by a representative of the state in March, 2012.
Document Title	122A.31 American Sign Language/English Interpreter. Subdivision 1. Requirements for American Sign Language/English interpreters.
Date	February 4, 2008 Letter from Commissioner of Education adds EIPA 4.0 to original July 1, 2000 standard.
Related URL's	Minnesota Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Comments	License (a) In addition to any other requirements that a school district establishes, any person employed to provide American sign language/English interpreting or sign transliterating services on a full-time or part-time basis for a school district after July 1, 2000, must: (1) and (2) below.
Educational Interpreter Guidelines	
Standards for:	
Formal Academic	(2) satisfactorily complete an interpreter/transliterating training program affiliated with an accredited educational institution.
Oral	Subd. 2.Oral or cued speech transliterators. (a) In addition to any other requirements that a school district establishes, any person employed to provide oral transliterating or cued speech transliterating services on a full-time or part-time basis for a school district after July 1, 2000, must hold a current applicable transliterator certificate awarded by the national certifying association or comparable state certification from the commissioner of education.
Cued Speech	(b) To provide oral or cued speech transliterator services on a full-time or part-time basis, a person employed in a school district must comply with paragraph (a). The commissioner shall grant a nonrenewable, two-year certificate to a school district on behalf of a person who has not yet attained a current applicable transliterator certificate under paragraph (a). A person for whom a nonrenewable, two-year certificate is issued must work under the direction of a licensed teacher who is skilled in language development of individuals who are deaf or hard-of-hearing. A person for whom a nonrenewable, two-year certificate is issued also must enroll in a state-approved training program and demonstrate progress towards the certification required under paragraph (a) sufficient for the person to be certified at the end of the two-year period. (c) Consistent with the requirements of this paragraph, a person holding a provisional certificate may apply to the commissioner for one time-limited extension. The commissioner, in consultation with the Commission Serving Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing People, must grant the person a time-limited extension of the provisional certificate based on the following documentation:

	<p>(1) letters of support from the person's mentor, a parent of a pupil the person serves, the special education director of the district in which the person is employed, and a representative from the regional service center of the deaf and hard-of-hearing;</p> <p>(2) records of the person's formal education, training, experience, and progress on the person's education plan; and</p> <p>(3) an explanation of why the extension is needed.</p> <p>As a condition of receiving the extension, the person must comply with a plan and the accompanying time line for meeting the requirements of this subdivision. A committee composed of the director of the Minnesota Resource Center Serving Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing, or the director's designee, a representative of the Minnesota Association of Deaf Citizens, a representative of the Minnesota Registry of Interpreters of the Deaf, and other appropriate persons selected by the commissioner must develop the plan and time line for the person receiving the extension.</p>
Sign Language Professional Knowledge Exam	
Sign Language Interpreting Skill Exam	<p>(1) hold current interpreter and transliterator certificates awarded by the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID), or the general level interpreter proficiency certificate awarded by the National Association of the Deaf (NAD), or a comparable state certification from the commissioner of education;</p> <p>“Due to changes at the National testing level, the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) now recognizes the Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment (EIPA) at the 4.0 level. This situation allows sign language interpreters another testing option for national certification. Selecting this option in Minnesota means that the interpreter would need to pass the EIPA written test and show a 4.0 rating in both the elementary and secondary skill level in American Sign Language (ASL), Pigeon Sign Language (PSE) or Manually Coded English (MCE) performance test. The interpreter would also need to be member in good standing with RID and once certified be required to maintain certification thru RID’s Certificate Maintenance program (CMP) and Ethical Practices System (EPS).” (2/4/08 ltr from Commissioner)</p>
CEU’s	
Developmental Alternatives (Often "Initial" or "Provisional")	<p>(b) New graduates of an interpreter/transliterator program affiliated with an accredited education institution shall be granted a two-year provisional certificate by the commissioner. During the two-year provisional period, the interpreter/transliterator must develop and implement an education plan in collaboration with a mentor under paragraph (c).</p> <p>(c) A mentor of a provisionally certified interpreter/transliterator must be an interpreter/transliterator who has either NAD level IV or V certification or RID certified interpreter and certified transliterator certification and have at least three years interpreting/transliterating experience in any educational setting.</p>

	<p>The mentor, in collaboration with the provisionally certified interpreter/transliterators, shall develop and implement an education plan designed to meet the requirements of paragraph (a), clause (1), and include a weekly on-site mentoring process.</p> <p>(d) Consistent with the requirements of this paragraph, a person holding a provisional certificate may apply to the commissioner for one time-limited extension. The commissioner, in consultation with the Commission of Deaf, DeafBlind and Hard-of-Hearing Minnesotans, must grant the person a time-limited extension of the provisional certificate based on the following documentation:</p> <p>(1) letters of support from the person's mentor, a parent of a pupil the person serves, the special education director of the district in which the person is employed, and a representative from the regional service center of the deaf and hard-of-hearing;</p> <p>(2) records of the person's formal education, training, experience, and progress on the person's education plan; and</p> <p>(3) an explanation of why the extension is needed.</p> <p>As a condition of receiving the extension, the person must comply with a plan and the accompanying time line for meeting the requirements of this subdivision. A committee composed of the director of the Minnesota Resource Center Serving Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing, or the director's designee, a representative of the Minnesota Association of Deaf Citizens, a representative of the Minnesota Registry of Interpreters of the Deaf, and other appropriate persons selected by the commissioner must develop the plan and time line for the person receiving the extension. (e) A school district may employ only an interpreter/transliterators who has been certified under paragraph (a) or (b), or for whom a time-limited extension has been granted under paragraph (d).</p>
Renewals	
Additional Information	<p>Mary Cashman-Bakken Minnesota Department of Education: State Specialist Deaf/Hard of Hearing 507-332-5491</p>