



New Mexico Commission for Deaf & Hard of Hearing

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Website: www.cdhh.state.nm.us

Filling Educational Interpreter Positions

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School Districts, particularly in rural areas, often struggle to find qualified signed language interpreters to fill vacancies. Please contact us if we can be of assistance.

Posting Positions

NMCDHH can share position postings on our social media pages, email blasts, and on multiple listservs. Email postings to Lisa Dignan at Lisa.Dignan@state.nm.us for distribution. See the minimum qualifications at the end of this fact sheet to ensure qualified interpreters apply.

Staffing Agencies

Some rural districts have had success using staffing agencies. The ones listed below have contacted NMCDHH for guidance and assistance regarding licensure qualifications for interpreters working in New Mexico, and have been responsive to information provided.

Sunbelt Staffing
800.659.1522
www.sunbeltstaffing.com

Soliant Health
800.849.5502
www.soliant.com

Therapia Staffing
866.678.9449
www.therapiastaffing.com

State Licensure

New Mexico requires signed language interpreters to be licensed. There are three licenses:

- Provisional - for individuals who have graduated from an ITP but are not yet certified by RID, or who were employed as interpreters in July 2007. Can be held for a maximum of five years.
- Educational - requires the ED: K-12 credential from RID or meeting all Ed:K-12 criteria, and is only valid in K-12 settings.
- Community - requires RID certification, and is valid in K-12 and community settings.

Details and forms can be found at the website of the Signed Language Interpreting Practice Board: www.rld.state.nm.us/boards/Signed_Language_Interpreting_Practices.aspx. Practicing without a license is a misdemeanor punishable by up to 364 days in jail and/or up to a \$1000 fine.

Public Education Department License

Educational Interpreters are required to also hold a license from the Public Education Department (PED). Holding one of the three licenses listed above qualifies and interpreter to hold the PED license. Details and forms can be found at the PED website:

<https://webnew.ped.state.nm.us/bureaus/licensure/how-to-apply/interpreter-for-the-deaf-pre-k-12>.

Minimum Qualifications to Be Included on Job Postings

Below are minimum qualifications which will assist in finding a qualified signed language interpreter for educational positions. Some Districts require interpreters to be nationally certified by RID and others are willing to consider pre-certified interpreters. Suggested language for each is included below.

RID Certified Only:

Minimum Qualifications

- New Mexico Public Education Department License
- New Mexico Signed Language Interpreter License - Community or Educational
- Certification from the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf
- Experience (as determined by the District)

Notes:

- Embedded in these requirements are a BA degree or having satisfied RID's educational requirement via the Alternative Pathway.
- If the District wants full RID certification (NIC, CI/CT, etc.) they may not accept an Educational License since it is earned with the Ed:K-12 credential (or meeting the requirements thereof since it isn't currently available from RID - the Signed Language Interpreting Practices Board adjusted their rules so if an interpreter meets all the Ed:K-12 requirements they can get an Educational license). Interpreters with the Ed:K-12 are Certified members of RID, but they can't do community work because the credential is specific to K-12 interpreting.

Pre-Certified or Certified:

Minimum Qualifications

- New Mexico Public Education Department License
- New Mexico Signed Language Interpreter License - Community, Educational or Provisional
- AA degree or higher in Interpreting -or- RID Certification from the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf
- Experience (as determined by the district)

For assistance customizing qualifications for your specific District, please feel free to contact us or your District's assigned Educational Consultant from the New Mexico School for the Deaf Center for Educational Consulting and Training (CECT). Find contact for CECT here:

www.nmsd.k12.nm.us/statewide_services/contacts_-_statewide_services.