



Interpreters Moving to New Mexico

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New Mexico has a broad spectrum of opportunities for interpreters. Below is a list of helpful resources for those who are new to New Mexico.

State Licensure

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

- Provisional - for individuals who were already employed as interpreters in July 2009 or who have graduated from an ITP but are not yet certified by RID. Can be held for a maximum of five years.
- Educational - requires the ED: K-12 credential from RID or meeting the criteria for the ED:K-12 (EIPA performance test score of 4.0 or better, pass EIPA written test, satisfy RID's educational requirements, and current Associate membership with RID), 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 also required to hold a license from the Public Education Department (PED). Holding one of the three licenses listed above qualifies an 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>.

Professional Organization

The New Mexico Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf is and a great source of information and professional development. Visit the NMRID website at: www.nmrid.org.

New Mexico Interpreters Distribution List

NMCDHH administers an email distribution list for signed language interpreters to share professional development opportunities, job postings, licensure updates, and other relevant information. If you are interested in being added to the distribution list, please email Lisa Dignan at Lisa.Dignan@state.nm.us. If you have something you would like to share with the interpreting community, please send it to the same address to be forwarded to the list.

Educational Interpreting Opportunities

The largest employer of educational interpreters is the Albuquerque Public Schools (APS). Job postings are available on their website: www.aps.edu under the 'jobs' tab.

Other school districts near Albuquerque also hire interpreters, including the cities of Rio Rancho, Los Lunas, and Belen. A more complete list of school districts is available at the PED website.

The New Mexico School for the Deaf (NMSD) has its main campus in Santa Fe, and has preschools in Albuquerque, Farmington, and Las Cruces. Employment opportunities are posted on their website: www.nmsd.k12.nm.us.

Postsecondary Interpreting Opportunities

Several Postsecondary Institutions in New Mexico hire interpreters. Below are a few colleges and universities in the Albuquerque, Santa Fe, and Las Cruces areas:

University of New Mexico: www.unm.edu

Central New Mexico Community College: www.cnm.edu

Santa Fe Community College: www.sfcc.edu

New Mexico State University: www.nmsu.edu

Doña Ana Community College: <http://dacc.nmsu.edu>

Interpreter Referral Agencies

There are several Interpreter Referral Agencies serving New Mexico. Please see the Fact Sheet "How to Find a Signed Language Interpreter" on the NMCDHH website for a complete listing of all of the agencies.