

ND SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF/  
RESOURCE CENTER

*Providing programs and services  
for deaf and hard of hearing  
citizens of all ages  
in North Dakota since 1890.*

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A Division of the  
ND Department of Public Instruction

North Dakota School for the Deaf/  
Resource Center does not discriminate  
on the basis of race, color, national  
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employment or provision of services.



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Communications Department

**NORTH DAKOTA SCHOOL  
FOR THE DEAF/  
RESOURCE CENTER**

**Looking back with pride;  
Looking forward with  
confidence --**

**A school without walls**

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# Professional Development and Support for Educational Sign Language Interpreters in ND

To assure that quality educational interpreting services are being provided to North Dakota's students who are deaf and hard of hearing, the 2011 ND Legislative Assembly, with support from the Department of Public Instruction, enacted NDCC 43-52 which states that "individual[s] working in an elementary and



secondary school must [pass] the Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment at a level of 3.5 or higher." To ensure that individuals, regardless of their current job titles, become qualified, by state law, to interpret for students who are the deaf and hard of hearing, the Communications Department of the ND School for the Deaf/Resource Center (NDS/RC), in conjunction with the Sign Language Interpreting Program of Lake Region State College (LRSC) offer school districts the following assistance:

## Consultation/Evaluation/Referral

- The interview process for school districts who must review applicants for *educational interpreter* positions may be challenging. Staff members (nationally certified interpreters) are available to assist administrators during the interviewing and hiring of interpreters to help ensure that the most qualified and skilled person is selected.
- NDS/RC staff may come to your school to assist with annual performance evaluations of educational interpreters. A staff member will

complete a day-long classroom observation of the interpreter 'in action' and provide written feedback and recommendations for professional development if needed.

- School personnel may contact NDS/RC as needed to obtain a list of certified freelance sign language interpreters to provide substitute interpreting for public school students. For your convenience, an updated list of interpreter names and contact information is also maintained on the NDS/RC website at: [www.ndsd.nd.gov/](http://www.ndsd.nd.gov/)

## Interpreter Skill Development and Certification Maintenance

- By utilizing ND's Interactive Video Network (IVN), educational interpreters may access sign language classes taught by NDS/RC and/or LRSC instructors.
- NDS/RC will host or co-host two workshops per year to provide knowledge and skill development opportunities for K-12 educational interpreters and allow them to earn CEUs for the certification maintenance program.
- Support group discussions hosted by a nationally certified sign language interpreter will be offered twice per year to provide educational interpreters with resources that will enable them to interpret more effectively for deaf and hard of hearing students.



## Real Time Note-Taking Services

If a student has a documented disability that interferes with his or her ability to understand class lectures and write adequate notes, NDS/RC staff may provide remote real time note-taking support services (hourly fees are charged for this service).

## Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment Test Proctoring

Proctoring of the Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment test is available at NDS/RC (or another designated site) twice per year for those requiring certification. Recorded work samples will be sent to Boys' Town National Research Hospital for formal diagnostic evaluation and scoring. Results identify interpreting strengths and weaknesses and if passed, will provide national certification. Test fees will apply.

## Distance Mentoring for Interpreters

Interpreters needing answers or resources quickly may talk to or Skype with an experienced certified interpreter mentor. Live 'mentor chats' may be scheduled (call 701-328-3988 or email [renae.bitner@k12.nd.us](mailto:renae.bitner@k12.nd.us)). We will do our best to provide information regarding ethics, best practices and resources related to becoming nationally certified.