

Section 25.550 Approval of Educational Interpreters

Each educational interpreter who serves students with hearing loss in the public schools shall be of good character, as defined in Section 21B-15 of the School Code. Each educational interpreter shall be subject to that portion of Section 24-5 of the School Code that requires physical fitness and freedom from tuberculosis. Each educational interpreter shall hold a high school diploma or its recognized equivalent and a statement of approval from the State Superintendent of Education, which shall be identified as valid either for sign language interpreting or for cued speech interpreting. Each individual who is required to hold a statement of approval shall submit an application to the State Superintendent, accompanied by the fee required under Section 21B-40 of the School Code and evidence that he or she meets the requirements applicable to the type of approval sought.

- a) Approval Criteria
 - 1) Each applicant for approval as an educational interpreter either for sign language interpreter or cued speech interpreter shall:
 - A) have completed 60 semester hours of college credit from one or more regionally accredited institutions of higher education; or
 - B) hold an associate's degree issued by a regionally accredited institution of higher education; or
 - C) have achieved the score identified as passing by the Illinois State Board of Education on one of the examinations for paraprofessionals discussed in Section 25.510(b) of this Part; or
 - D) have passed the written examination administered by the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID).
 - 2) Each applicant for approval as a sign language interpreter also shall have:
 - A) attained a rating of Level 3.5 or above on the Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment (EIPA); or
 - B) maintained a valid certification from the RID; or
 - C) maintained a valid Illinois Board for Evaluation of Interpreters (IL BEI) Basic Certification or higher issued by the Illinois Deaf and Hard of Hearing Commission.

- 3) Each applicant for approval as a cued speech interpreter also shall have attained Transliteration Skills Certification at Level 3 or above.
- 4) If the applicant is unable to provide evidence of meeting one of the criteria set forth in subsection (a)(2) of this Section, a one-time, interim approval shall be granted if each of the following conditions are met. The interim approval is valid until June 30 following two years of the approval being issued. The provisions of this subsection (a)(4) shall not apply to individuals who held initial approval issued prior to June 30, 2013.
 - A) The applicant shall provide evidence of meeting one of the criteria listed in subsection (a)(1) of this Section.
 - B) The applicant shall have attained a rating of at least Level 3.0 on the EIPA.

b) Validity; Renewal

Approval shall be valid for five years, subject to the provisions of Section 21B-20 of the School Code, and shall be renewable upon presentation of evidence that, during the five-year period of the approval's validity, the individual has completed 50 continuing professional development units (CPDUs). The number of CPDUs to be awarded for completion of specific activities shall be as set forth in Section 25.875 of this Part, as applicable.

c) Continuing Professional Development

- 1) An individual may accrue units of continuing professional development in accordance with the provisions of Section 25.875(k) by participating in conferences, workshops, institutes, seminars, symposia, or other, similar training events that:
 - A) are designed to improve the skills and knowledge of interpreters for the deaf; or
 - B) are organized by an entity that is approved pursuant to Section 25.855 or 25.860 of this Part and address educational concerns.
- 2) An individual may accrue the required credit for continuing professional development in accordance with the provisions of Section 25.875(i) by completing college coursework that is part of an interpreter training program offered by a regionally accredited institution of higher education or an Illinois community college.

3) Evidence of Completion

- A) Along with his or her statement of approval, each individual who will be required to complete continuing education as a condition of renewal shall be furnished with a log format enabling him or her to record the activities completed. For any activity completed under subsection (c)(1) of this Section, the individual shall present the attendance form provided by the entity organizing the event, except that the organizer's signature on the log form shall suffice in cases where participants receive no other written verification of their attendance.
- B) As evidence of completion for college coursework, the individual shall present a grade report or official transcript issued by the institution indicating that he or she has passed the course or courses.

d) Revocation or Suspension of Approval or other Permissible Sanction

The provisions of Section 25.510(e) of this Part shall apply to the revocation or suspension of approval or other permissible sanction for educational interpreters.

(Source: Amended at 37 Ill. Reg. 8379, effective June 12, 2013).