OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE
TOBIAS READ
SECRETARY OF STATE

MICHAEL KAPLAN
DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE

ARCHIVES DIVISION
STEPHANIE CLARK
DIRECTOR

800 SUMMER STREET NE
SALEM, OR 97310
503-373-0701

NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING

INCLUDING STATEMENT OF NEED & FISCAL IMPACT

CHAPTER 581
OREGON DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

FILED: 10/19/2026 4:58 PM
ARCHIVES DIVISION SECRETARY OF STATE

FILING CAPTION: Senate Bill 950 (2025) Implementation: Sign Language Interpreter minimum guidelines

LAST DAY AND TIME TO OFFER COMMENT TO AGENCY: 12/10/2026 9:00 AM
The Agency requests public comment on whether other options should be considered for achieving the rule's substantive goals while reducing negative economic impact of the rule on business.

CONTACT:
Haedon Brunelle
503-508-3886
haedon.brunelle@ode.oregon.gov
255 Capitol St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Filed By:
Haedon Brunelle
Rules Coordinator

HEARING(S)
Auxiliary aids for persons with disabilities are available upon advance request. Notify the contact listed above.

DATE: 11/17/2026
TIME: 3:00 PM - 3:30 PM
OFFICER: Haedon Brunelle

REMOTE HEARING DETAILS
MEETING URL: Click here to join the meeting
PHONE NUMBER: 669-254-5252
CONFERENCE ID: 1653682773

NEED FOR THE RULE(S):

SB 950 (25) directs health licensing office (HLO) to implement a sign language interpreter licensing system.

DOCUMENTS RELIED UPON, AND WHERE THEY ARE AVAILABLE:

SB 950 (2025) can be found on the Oregon Legislative Information System (OLIS).

STATEMENT IDENTIFYING HOW ADOPTION OF RULE(S) WILL AFFECT RACIAL EQUITY IN THIS STATE:

This licensing system will ensure high-quality interpreters for students.

FISCAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT:

No fiscal impact on the Oregon Department of Education.

COST OF COMPLIANCE:

(1) Identify any state agencies, units of local government, and members of the public likely to be economically affected by the rule(s). (2) Effect on Small Businesses: (a) Estimate the number and type of small businesses subject to the rule(s); (b) Describe the expected reporting, recordkeeping and administrative activities and cost required to comply with the rule(s); (c) Estimate the cost of professional services, equipment supplies, labor and increased administration required to comply with the rule(s).

No fiscal impact on the Oregon Department of Education (ODE). Operationally, school districts will do the same work as they have done before. Responsibility for licensing has shifted from the ODE to the Oregon Health Authority (OHA).

DESCRIBE HOW SMALL BUSINESSES WERE INVOLVED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THESE RULE(S):

Small businesses were not involved in the development of these rules as this will not impact small businesses.

These rules only directly impact school districts.

WAS AN ADMINISTRATIVE RULE ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSULTED? NO IF NOT, WHY NOT?

An administrative rule advisory committee was not consulted. The Oregon Department of Education (ODE) identifies those who may be impacted by these rule updates and hosts direct engagements with them. In addition, ODE staff present their rule updates to a broader group of education partners ranging from non-profits, education service districts, school districts, student rule advisors, and more, prior to approaching the State Board of Education for further consideration and a vote. The State Board of Education holds public meetings and recordings for all rules. You can find all of their meetings here on boardbook: https://meetings.boardbook.org/Public/Organization/2146.

AMEND: 581-015-2035

RULE SUMMARY: ODE will remove its minimum requirement for Sign Language Interpreters in OAR 581-15-2035, and direct all to the Health License Office (HLO) licensure system. This is pursuant to SB 950 (2025).

CHANGES TO RULE:

581-015-2035
Minimum Standards for Sign Language Interpreters Serving Students in Public Schools ¶

(1) Definitions. For purposes of this rule~~, the following definitions shall apply:~~¶
~~(a) "CI" means Certificate of Interpretation issued by RID.~~¶
~~(b) "CT" means Certificate of Transliteration issued by RID.~~¶
~~(c~~:¶
(a) "EI/ECSE" means Early Intervention and Early Childhood Special Education.¶
(~~d~~b) "~~EIPA" means the Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment®, including both the written and performance components.~~¶
~~(e) "NIC" means the National Interpreter Certification by RID~~Health Licensing Office" means the Oregon Health Authority Health Licensing Office.¶
(~~f~~c) "Public School" means a public agency or school district ~~or~~ as defined in OAR 581-015-2000.¶
~~(g) "RID" means Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf Inc.¶~~
(~~h~~d) "Sign Language Interpreter" means a ~~person~~n individual who provides educational sign language interpreting services to students~~ with hearing impairments~~.¶
(~~i~~e) "Student" means a student ~~with a hearing impairment~~ who is:¶

(A) Eligible for EI/ECSE or special education services under OAR 581-015-2150; or¶
(B) A qualified student with a disability under Section 504 as defined in OAR 581-015-2390.¶
(2) Minimum Standard.¶
(a) A public school or EI/ECSE program may employ or contract ~~for the services of~~with a sign language interpreter ~~for a student only if the sign l~~only if the interpreter:¶
(b) Holds the license, registration, permit, or authorization required by the Health Licensing Office and Oregon Board of Sign Language ~~i~~Interpreter~~ meets the following minimum standards:¶~~
~~(a) The sign language interpreter must achieve a passing score of 3.5 or above on the EIPA Performance Test or hold RID NIC, CI or CT Certification; and¶~~
~~(b)(A) Hold a Bachelor's or Associate's Degree from an Interpreter Education Program or in a related educational field; or¶~~
~~(B) Achieve a passing score on the EIPA Written test~~s for the services being provided; and¶
(c) Complies with all applicable statutes and administrative rules governing sign language interpreters.¶
(d) Public schools and EI/ECSE programs shall verify the licensure status of interpreters in accordance with requirements established by the Health Licensing Office.¶
(e) If the Health Licensing Office and Oregon Board of Sign Language Interpreters has waived the required license, registration, permit, or authorization required, public schools and EI/ECSE programs shall be subject to the terms of the waiver.¶
(f) Public schools and EI/ECSE programs shall comply with all implementation timelines established by the Health Licensing Office and Oregon Board of Sign Language Interpreters.
Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 185.225, ORS 343.041
Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 185.110, ORS 185.225