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DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE
AND TRIBAL LIAISON



ARCHIVES DIVISION

STEPHANIE CLARK
DIRECTOR

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

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OREGON DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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FILING CAPTION: Rule Revision: Minimum Standards for Sign Language Interpreters Serving Students in Public Schools

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CONTACT: Haedon Brunelle

503-508-3886

haedon.brunelle@ode.oregon.gov

255 Capitol St. NE

Salem, OR 97301

Filed By:

Haedon Brunelle

Rules Coordinator

AMEND: 581-015-2035

RULE TITLE: Minimum Standards for Sign Language Interpreters Serving Students in Public Schools

NOTICE FILED DATE: 04/15/2024

RULE SUMMARY: This rule establishes the minimum standards for sign language interpreters serving students in public schools. This rule language is reduced from its prior version to reflect the legislative transfer of some interpretive duties from the Oregon Department of Education to the Oregon Health Authority.

RULE TEXT:

(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) "EI/ECSE" means Early Intervention and Early Childhood Special Education.

(d) "EIPA" means the Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment[®], including both the written and performance components.

(e) "NIC" means the National Interpreter Certification by RID.

(f) "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) "Sign Language Interpreter" means a person who provides educational interpreting services to students with hearing impairments.

(i) "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 public school may employ or contract for the services of a sign language interpreter for a student only if the sign language interpreter is licensed through the Health Licensing Office, and 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.

STATUTORY/OTHER AUTHORITY: ORS 185.225, ORS 343.041

STATUTES/OTHER IMPLEMENTED: ORS 185.110, ORS 185.225