

SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETER

DEFINITION

A Sign Language Interpreter facilitates communication between students who are deaf or hard-of-hearing, hearing instructors, staff members, and peers within an educational environment; and works with the educational team to provide scaffolding and improve the student's signing capacities using any of a variety of sign or verbal communication systems such as American Sign Language (ASL) in a highly proficient manner, reflecting the affect of the speaker and/or signer.

TYPICAL DUTIES

Interprets between students who are deaf or hard-of-hearing and English speakers at a regular conversational rate in a variety of educational settings, including but not limited to, classroom lectures and activities, group discussions, assemblies, and counseling sessions; meanwhile accommodating student language gaps and acting as their language model.

Interprets at off-campus activities such as field trips, job interviews, and co-curricular activities.

Confers with students, faculty and staff to utilize common signs for academic technical subject matter that exists in the local educational community; and may develop new signs as needed.

Provides voice interpretation for individuals who are deaf or hard-of-hearing and hearing individuals in order to ensure that communication is met between all individuals, as needed.

Utilizes standardized signs used in the educational setting and community.

Performs related duties as assigned.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS AMONG RELATED CLASSES

A Sign Language Interpreter provides communication through the use of sign-to-English and English-to-sign skills, using American Sign Language in a highly proficient manner; and works with the educational team to provide scaffolding to improve the student's signing capacities.

An Instructional Aide for Students Who Are Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing assists students who are deaf and hard-of-hearing through the use of sign language or oral communication methods by presenting educational materials and exercises related to classroom instruction. A Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Instructional Aide is an employee who is deaf or hard-of-hearing who is assigned the same duties.

SUPERVISION

General supervision is received from a site administrator or designee. General and technical supervision is received from a certificated specialist. No supervision is exercised.

CLASS QUALIFICATIONS

Knowledge of:

Expressive and receptive forms of American Sign Language, Conceptually Accurate Signed English, Signed Exact English, Manually Coded English, and Pidgin Signed English
Interpreting strategies and techniques necessary to accommodate individual needs of students in a variety of educational settings
Guidelines for Professional Conduct for Educational Interpreters, including The Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf Interpreter Code of Ethics, Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID)/ National Association for the Deaf (NAD) Code of Professional Conduct (COPC), and Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment (EIPA)
Language development
Foundational concepts of Deaf culture

Ability to:

Interpret and communicate fluently in American Sign Language as appropriate to the individual needs of the students
Ascertain and adjust to students' language abilities while scaffolding to increase the students' vocabulary and comprehension
Maintain confidentiality and impartiality
Understand and carry out written and oral instructions
Convey information promoting the awareness of the unique needs of, and issues pertinent to, individuals who are deaf or hard-of-hearing
Understand and express common academic technical and vernacular expressions used in the classroom in a clear manner
Demonstrate sensitivity to the communication process between individuals who are deaf or hard-of-hearing and the needs of the persons involved in that process
Establish and maintain positive interpersonal relationships with others
Speak and write English clearly and effectively

Special Physical Requirements:

Hearing acuity sufficient to understand information to be interpreted in a variety of educational environments
Facial dexterity to produce readable mouth movements for specific American Sign Language expressions
Manual dexterity to produce readable American Sign Language through movement of fingers and arms
Visual acuity to see information to be voiced (such as sign language and facial expressions)

ENTRANCE QUALIFICATIONS

Education:

Graduation from high school or evidence of equivalent educational proficiency.

Experience:

Two years of experience in providing sign-to-English (receptive skills) and English-to-sign (expressive skills) interpreting in one or more sign systems/languages is preferable.

Special:

As required by Title 5 of California Code of Regulations, Language Interpreters employed as of July 1, 2009, must possess valid RID certification or have achieved a score of 4.0 or above on the EIPA, the NAD/ACCI assessment, or equivalent.

A valid California Driver license and use of an automobile may be required for some positions.

This class description is not a complete statement of essential functions, responsibilities, or requirements. Entrance Requirements are representative of the minimum level of knowledge, skill and/or abilities. To the extent permitted by law, management retains the discretion to add or change typical duties of the position at any time, as long as such addition or change is reasonably related to existing duties.

Revised
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