

SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETER

DEFINITION

A Sign Language Interpreter facilitates communication between deaf or hearing-impaired students and hearing instructors, staff members and peers within an educational environment, using any of a variety of manual and verbal communication systems in a highly proficient manner, reflecting the affect of the speaker and/or signer.

TYPICAL DUTIES

Interprets for deaf or hearing-impaired students in a variety of educational settings, including but not limited to, classroom lectures and activities, group discussions, assemblies, and counseling sessions, using various sign language systems and voice interpretation at a normal conversational rate.

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

Confers with students, faculty and staff to develop new signs for technical subject matter.

Provides voice interpretation for deaf or hearing-impaired individuals as needed.

Participates in standardizing signs used in the educational setting.

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 manual sign systems such as American Sign Language, Conceptually Accurate Signed English, Signed Exact English, Manually Coded English, and Pidgin Signed English in a highly proficient manner.

An Instructional Aide for Deaf or Hearing-Impaired Students assists deaf or hearing-impaired students through the use of sign language or oral interpretation by presenting educational materials and exercises related to classroom instruction, imparting social attitudes and behaviors, and assisting students in procedures related to education and employment. A Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Instructional Aide is a deaf employee 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 sign language systems which may include 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

The Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf Interpreter Code of Ethics

Language development
Deafness and foundational concepts of deaf culture

Ability to:

Interpret and communicate fluently and with high proficiency in the sign language system appropriate to the individual needs of the students
Assess and adjust to students' language abilities and their preferred sign language system
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, deaf or hearing-impaired persons
Understand and express common technical and vernacular expressions used in the classroom in a clear manner
Demonstrate sensitivity to the communication process between deaf or hearing-impaired persons 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 sign language expressions
Manual dexterity to produce readable 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 January 1, 2007, must possess valid RID certification or equivalent.

Sign Language Interpreters who do not meet the above requirement must comply with the following:

By July 1, 2008, Sign Language Interpreters employed must possess valid RID certification or have achieved a score of 3.0 or above on the EIPA, the NAD/ACCI assessment, or equivalent.

By July 1, 2009, Sign Language Interpreters employed 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. Requirements are representative of the minimum level of knowledge, skill and/or abilities. Management retains the discretion to add or change typical duties of the position at any time.

Revised
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