



WHAT ARE THE VARIOUS KINDS OF INTERPRETER CERTIFICATIONS? HOW ARE THEY DIFFERENT? WHAT ARE THE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT REQUIREMENTS IN SPECIFIC AREAS?

In wide travels offering interpreter training, it has become clear that there are several kinds of certifications. Some states require a certain kind of certification, while other states have different requirements. Here is some information about the varied requirements. If you have information about your state, please kindly send it to: info@trixbruce.com Thank you!

RID NIC

Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf National Interpreter Certification

NIC is a national certification designed for general interpreting offered through the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID). The examination tests interpreting knowledge and sign skills in three domains:

- General knowledge of the field of interpreting through the NIC knowledge exam (must pass before proceeding to other tests);
- Ethical decision making through the interview portion of the NIC Interview and Performance Exam; and
- Interpreting skills through the NIC Interview and Performance Exam

<http://rid.org/education/testing/index.cfm/AID/86>

EIPA K-12

EDUCATIONAL INTERPRETER PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT (EIPA)

The EIPA is the most widely used assessment for educational interpreting skills and is specifically designed for K-12 school interpreters. The EIPA is a national certification managed through Boys Town National Research Hospital in Omaha, NE.

www.classroominterpreting.org.

BEI

BOARD OF EVALUATION FOR INTERPRETERS CONTINUING EDUCATION UNITS (CEUs)

This program is responsible for testing and certifying the skill level of individuals seeking to become certified interpreters in Texas, Michigan, Missouri, and others. The primary goal of the BEI certification program is to ensure that prospective interpreters are proficient in their ability to meaningfully and accurately comprehend, produce, and transform ASL to and from English.

Additional functions of the BEI program are:

- To improve the quality of interpreter services for Texans who are deaf, hard of hearing or who are hearing. This is achieved by administering testing materials that are valid, reliable and legally defensible.
- To protect the interests of consumers of interpreter services by regulating the conduct of interpreters certified by the program.

QAST

Quality Assessment Test or Quality Assurance Screening Test (QAST)

State License

Some states require all sign language interpreters in the state to hold a license.

Illinois: <https://www2.illinois.gov/idhhc/Pages/interpreterlicensuredirectory.aspx>

New Hampshire

New Mexico: <http://nmrid.org/index.php?page=licensure>, 20 clock hours

ESSE

Educational Signed Skills Evaluation (ESSE)

CA

OK

The E.S.S.E. is similar to the EIPA. It focuses on classroom interpreting skills, includes receptive (sign to voice) and expressive (voice to sign) tests with 3 different age levels options (elementary, middle school, high school) and uses classroom stimulus tapes. The receptive component (E.S.S.E.-R) consists of 10 signed sentences and the interpreting (E.S.S.E.-I) segment uses samples of classroom teachers. The assessment results are viewed and scored by a 5 member panel of experts and a report is provided to candidates with their averaged score and an analysis of strengths and weaknesses.

CDE

Colorado Department of Education Clock Hour Credits (CDE) awards clock hours (sometimes referred to as contact hours) for attendance at events which meet one or more of the following criteria:

- The CDE sponsors the workshop/training
- The CDE is involved in the planning of the event
- A full-time CDE staff member(s) is a presenter

Colorado: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/sites/default/files/documents/cdesped/download/pdf/eihandbook.pdf>

WITA

Wisconsin Interpreting and Transliterating Assessment (WITA)

WITA is a skill verification assessment process. All portions of the WITA assessment are designed to evaluate expressive and receptive skills in a variety of situations. In addition, the candidates are asked to make a distinction between their interpreting and transliterating skills.

MICS

Missouri Interpreters Certification Systems (MICS)

The MCDHH’s Missouri Interpreters Certification System (MICS)PDF Document is a quality assurance screening system used to certify sign language interpreters within the State of Missouri. Certification is obtained through a written test and a performance test. Each performance test is evaluated by a team of trained evaluators on a number of factors and the candidate receives one of five certification levels based on their skill. The MICS is governed by the Board for Certification of Interpreters. MICS certifications may be used by the State Committee of Interpreters to satisfy requirements for licensing.

TEC Unit

STATES	Required NIC	EIPA Score	EIPA PD	BEI Level	QAS	State License	More Info
Alabama		3.5	20				
Alaska		4.0					
Arizona		3.5	24				
California		4.0					
Colorado		3.5	60				
Florida	Yes						
Georgia	Yes						
Idaho		3.5					
Illinois		3.0					http://www2.illinois.gov/idhhc/Documents/Interpreter%20PDFs/IL%20BEI%20Study%20Guide.pdf
Indiana		3.5	18				
Iowa		3.5					
Kansas		4.0					
Louisiana		3.0	90				http://www.unco.edu/doit/center/LP_osep%20state%20info/FINAL%20STATE%20INFO/LOUISIANA.pdf
Maine		3.5					
Michigan		3.5	24	I			http://michigan.gov/documents/mdcr/MI_Certified_Interpreter_Requirements_Doc_November_2011_368109_7.pdf
Minnesota							

Missouri			20				
Montana		3.5	12				
Nebraska		3.5					
Nevada		4.0					
New Hampshire			25				
New Jersey		3.0	15				http://www.nj.gov/education/specialed/deaf/interpreters/
New Mexico		4.0	20				http://nmrid.org/index.php?page=licensure
North Carolina		3.5	20				
Ohio	Yes		24			Yes – 5 years	
Oklahoma		3.5					
Oregon			12				
Pennsylvania			20				
Pennsylvania		3.5					
Rhode Island			5				
South Carolina	0	0	0	0	0	0	
South Dakota			20				
Tennessee			40				
Texas							HTTP://WWW.DARS.STATE.TX.US/DHHS/CEUREQUIREMENTS.SHTML
Utah			20				
Utah		3.5					
Virginia		3.5	20		III		
West Virginia			15				
Wisconsin	Yes	3.5					
Wyoming		3.5					

References:

<https://app.leg.wa.gov/CMD/Handler.ashx?MethodName=getdocumentcontent&documentId=HFRCqv2fAoY&att=false>

<http://www.eyesign.org/index.php?page=eipa-state-requirements>

EIPA-RID Membership Agreement Frequently Asked Questions: http://www.rid.org/UserFiles/File/pdfs/EIPA_FAQs.pdf