

Subject American sign language/English interpreters employed by schools

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Summary

A person employed by a school district to provide American sign language/English interpretation or transliteration must hold one of two statutorily required certifications and have completed an accredited training program. This bill would add Certified Deaf Interpreter (CDI) to the allowed types of certifications. CDI certifications are for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing, have demonstrated understanding of interpreting and the Deaf community and culture, have special training in various communication methods, and have native or near-native fluency in American sign language.

The bill would also make employees with the required certifications or credentials for American sign language/English interpreters “essential personnel” under the section of statute governing special education aid, which has funding implications for school districts employing such interpreters.