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## Licensure and the K-12 Interpreted Setting: FAQ

1. Do interpreters working in a K-12 setting have to be licensed?
  - Interpreters working in a K-12 setting are exempt from licensure *only when working with a K-12 student pursuant to his or her IEP.*
2. What situations in a K-12 setting would require a licensed interpreter?
  - Any situation involving a Deaf adult, such as a parent, teacher, aide, etc., requires a licensed interpreter.
  - Situations involving a Deaf student which are not listed in the student's IEP (i.e., extracurricular activities, after school programs, summer programs, etc. may not be included in the IEP) require a licensed interpreter.
  - Situations involving outside agencies or professionals, such as Law Enforcement, the Department of Child Safety, etc. require a licensed interpreter.
3. What qualifications must a K-12 Interpreter possess in order to work in the State of Arizona?
  - According to the Arizona Department of Education per Arizona Administrative Code R7-2-622, interpreters working in a K-12 setting pursuant to a Deaf student's IEP must have earned a score of 3.5 or better on the Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment (EIPA) or hold national interpreter certification, have at least a High School Diploma or G.E.D., and be able to obtain a fingerprint clearance card. Individuals who have not yet obtained a 3.5 on the EIPA may be hired to work under a Professional Development plan for up to 3 years while they work toward a higher score, with an optional additional year of employment at the discretion of the hiring entity.
4. Is the school responsible for providing a licensed interpreter when one is required?
  - If the school is hosting an event such as a Parent Night, IEP meeting, professional development training, etc. at which Deaf adults will be present, the school is responsible for providing a licensed interpreter.
  - If an outside agency, such as Law Enforcement or the Department of Child Safety, comes to the school to interact with a child, the outside agency is responsible for providing a licensed, qualified interpreter.
  - If a Deaf child's class goes on a field trip, the school or the facility where the field trip will take place may be responsible. This depends on whether activities outside of the classroom are listed in the IEP, the qualifications of the Educational Interpreter who regularly works with the student, and whether the facility provides services to the public. For example, if the class is attending a play at a local theater and either activities outside of school are not listed in the IEP and/or the Educational Interpreter is not qualified to interpret the performance, the theater will most likely be responsible for providing interpreters. The theater would likely be obligated under the Americans with Disabilities Act to provide equal access to their goods and services; this provision applies to minor

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children with disabilities, as well as to adults with disabilities. If activities outside the classroom are included in the child's IEP, but the Educational Interpreter does not feel qualified to interpret the assignment in question, the school may consider hiring a licensed interpreter for the event, or negotiating with the theater to share the cost of services. The facility hosting the field trip may wish to seek legal advice regarding their obligations under the ADA or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.

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*The mission of the Arizona Commission for the Deaf and the Hard of Hearing is to ensure, in partnership with the public and private sectors, accessibility for the deaf, deaf-blind, hard of hearing, and persons with speech difficulties to improve their quality of life.*