



PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION | Mark Johnson, *Superintendent of Public Instruction*

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Directors, Exceptional Children Programs
Lead Administrators, Charter Schools

FROM: Sherry H. Thomas, Director

DATE: October 21, 2020

EDUCATIONAL INTERPRETER PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT TEMPORARY POLICY PROVISION FOR THE 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR

North Carolina General Statute 90D-4 exempts educational interpreters from having an interpreter license through the North Carolina Interpreter and Transliterator Licensing Board (NCITLB). Therefore, the NC State Board of Education (SBE) requires that educational interpreters pass the Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment (EIPA) with a minimum score of 3.0 in order to provide an interpreted education in public school systems. If an interpreter holds a full license through the NCITLB, this would fulfill the EIPA requirement and they may serve in a public school.

However, due to the Governor's Executive Order 121 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, NC DPI was made aware that educational interpreting candidates may have had some difficulty in securing a test date and location to take the EIPA. Also, since Boys Town National Research Hospital was temporarily closed and now has a backlog of testing materials to score, there may potentially be a longer wait time for educational interpreter candidates to receive their scores after taking the exam. Therefore, on October 8, 2020, the SBE approved a temporary provision to the current policy, EVAL-001, that districts looking to hire educational interpreters may hire them without the current minimum score requirement if they take and pass the EIPA Pre-Hire Screening with a rating of "skills at or above the required level" or "hire with caution". For more information on the EIPA Pre-hire Screening [click here](#). To arrange for a pre-hire screening contact the EIPA Diagnostic Center at EIPA@boystown.org.

All candidates hired under this temporary provision must take the EIPA and receive the current minimum required score of 3.0 or higher within this school year; preferably within 90 days of hire. If a candidate does not receive a score meeting the minimum requirements by June 30, 2021, they can no longer serve students requiring an interpreted education. This provision will remain in effect until the end of the 2020-21 school year.

It is strongly suggested that all educational interpreter candidates an LEA hires based on the pre-hire screening results listed above during this time, be provided coaching support with an interpreter who has met the current EIPA requirement or greater. The Exceptional Children Division is committed to assisting LEAs in finding coaching support for these individuals. Obtaining the annual professional learning requirement of 15 contact hours or 1.5 CEUs continues to be a requirement.

Additional questions may be directed to Sherri Vernelson, Section Chief, sherri.vernelson@dpi.nc.gov, or Antwan Campbell, Education Consultant for Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Antwan.campbell@dpi.nc.gov.

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EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN DIVISION

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