

MEMORANDUM

TO: Special Education Directors

FROM: Peter Keup
Director, Office of Special Education Services

DATE: March 17, 2026

RE: Regulation for Educational Interpreters for Students Who Are Deaf

On February 1, 2026, the South Carolina Legislature approved the regulation for Educational Interpreters for Students Who Are Deaf (Regulation 43.243.2). This regulation goes into effect at the start of the 2026-2027 school year. We have been closely monitoring this regulation and provided updates to district special education directors throughout the legislative sessions. If you would like to access a copy of the final regulation, please find it at the following link: [Sign Language Interpreters](#).

As a reminder, the specific requirements that will go into effect at the beginning of the 2026-2027 school year include:

- Documentation of current national certification or an Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment (EIPA) rating of 3.5 or higher is required. If the interpreter has completed the EIPA Performance Assessment and is awaiting results, the LEA may wait to verify this requirement until the results are received;
- Evidence of a high school diploma;
- Documentation of valid, successful completion of the Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment: Written Test (EIPA: WT);
- A sworn statement that the applicant has read, understands, and agrees to abide by the [National Association of Interpreters in Education Code of Ethics](#); and
- A background check pursuant to Section 59-25-115.

In addition, the timeline for completing a minimum of 80 hours of continuing education every four years will begin with the 2026-2027 school year.

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Please also be aware that the requirements will increase in four-year increments thereafter.

For any questions about the regulation, feel free to reach out to Sara McKay at

smckay@ed.sc.gov or Lisa McCliment at lmcclement@ed.sc.gov.