



Louisiana Commission for the Deaf Open Forum

Sign Language Interpreter Standards

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Overview

- Our Mission
- Our Vision
- Our Values
- Louisiana Commission for the Deaf Programs
- Louisiana Generalist Standards
- Louisiana PreK-12 Interpreter Standards
- Louisiana Interpreter Registry
- Louisiana Grievance Policy
- Workforce Development and Mentoring Program
- Questions & Answers



Mission

To *engage, empower and enrich* the lives and opportunities of Louisiana's Deaf, DeafBlind and Hard of Hearing people.



Vision

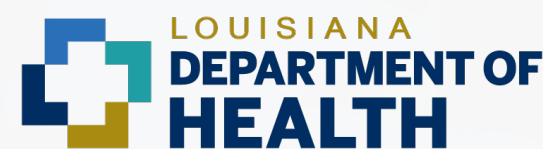
A Louisiana that *embraces the inclusion* of a diverse deaf community through *full access* to information, communication and opportunities.

Values

**Advocacy, Accountability, Equality, Accessibility
and Sustainability**

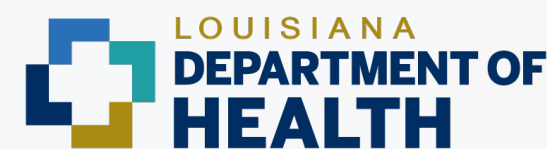
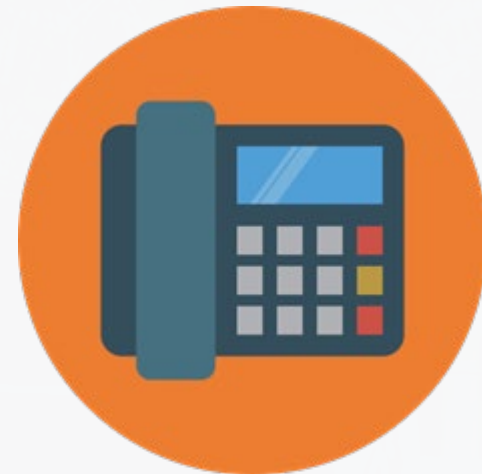
Mandate

- Promote, coordinate and facilitate accessibility of all public and private services to people who are d/Deaf, DeafBlind and hard of hearing
- Serve as advocate for the needs and rights of people who are d/Deaf, DeafBlind and hard of hearing.
- Collect information concerning deafness and provide for the dissemination of this information.
- Develop and implement a statewide program to ensure continuity of services to people who are d/Deaf, DeafBlind and hard of hearing.
- Inform, educate, and advise citizens who are deaf, parents and families of the availability of programs and services for adults and children who are d/Deaf, DeafBlind and hard of hearing at all levels of state and local government.



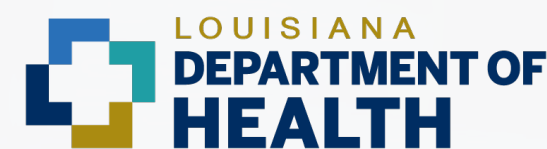
Louisiana Commission for the Deaf Accessibility Programs

- Hearing aids for qualifying individuals
- Assistive technology for qualifying individuals
- Support service providers for individuals who are DeafBlind to live and participate in their communities with independence
- Interpreter program services which include standards, oversight and support for individuals who use sign language, provide interpreting services and the sign language interpreter workforce



Background—Establishment of Interpreting Standards

- Strategic Priority Report in 2021—Establish new systems and standards for sign language interpreting
- Act 128 of the 2022 Regular Legislative Session—The new law required Louisiana Commission for the Deaf to establish and provide oversight of an Interpreter Registry, which includes defining the minimum qualification standards for registration of all interpreters working in the State of Louisiana.
- Published Interpreter Needs Assessment 2023—In 2022, in an effort to better understand the state of sign language interpreters and the interpreting services provided in Louisiana, the Louisiana Commission for the Deaf conducted a six-month assessment process for engaging interpreters statewide in focus groups, meetings and other opportunities to provide feedback.
 - Results of this survey revealed that 70 percent of those who participated in the assessment agreed that there should be certification requirements for all sign language interpreters to improve the quality of sign language interpreting services.



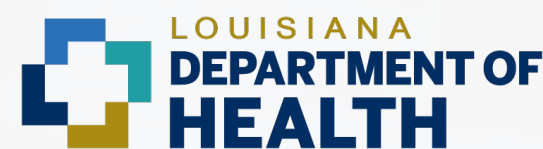
Engagement Process

To fulfill the requirements of Act 128, the Commission used various strategies to gather information from the community to inform the minimum qualification standards for interpreters working in the state of Louisiana. Note: This list represents engagements from year 2020-2025 and is not meant to be exhaustive.

Formal Engagements

- [Louisiana Commission for the Deaf Strategic Plan Assessment and Report—Innivee Strategies](#)
- [Statewide Interpreter Needs Assessment and Report—Innivee Strategies](#)
- [Interpreter Ad hoc Committee Public Meetings](#)
- [Louisiana Commission for the Deaf Board of Commissioners Quarterly Public Meetings](#)

Note: All public meeting notices and minutes can be found using [Division of Administration Board and Commissions](#) website.



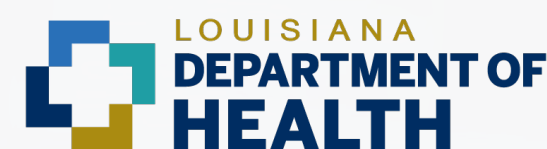
Engagement Process

Community Engagements

- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Public Forums/Town halls/Community Engagement Announcements](#)
- [Louisiana Association of the Deaf](#)
- [Louisiana Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf](#)

State Government Guidance

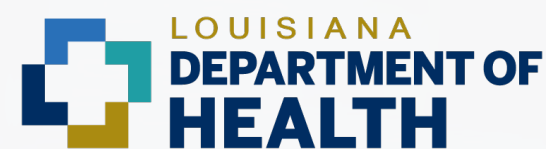
- [Louisiana Department of Health](#)
- [Louisiana Department of Education](#)
- Various Local Education Agencies/Deaf and Hard of Hearing Departments



Engagement Process

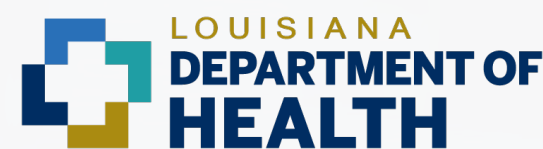
National Best Practices for Interpreters

- [National Association of Interpreters in Education](#)
- [Board for Evaluation of Interpreters Certification Program](#)
- [National Association of the Deaf](#)
- [National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf](#)



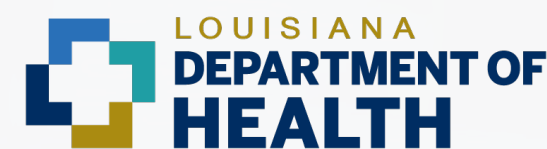
Establishment of New Standards: Who Will This Apply To?

- Individuals seeking to provide sign language interpreting services in the state of Louisiana, whether in-person or via remote services, shall apply for registration with the Louisiana Commission for the Deaf
- A person who is not registered with Louisiana Commission for the Deaf shall not do any of the following:
 - Provide services as a sign language interpreter for people who are d/Deaf, DeafBlind and/or hard of hearing in the state of Louisiana.
 - Use any title, abbreviation, words, letters, signs or figures to indicate that the person holds Louisiana interpreter registration pursuant to the rule.
 - These rules shall not apply to individuals providing sign language interpreting services on a voluntary basis receiving no compensation or in religious settings.



Is This Licensure?

- **What is licensure?** The process of granting a license to practice based on an assessment/evaluation by a state-level authority (i.e. North Carolina, Arkansas)
- **What is registration?** The process of completing an application process, paying fees and receiving approval after meeting profession-specific criteria in order to be an active practitioner in a given profession (i.e. American Sign Language Interpreters in West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Nevada).
- **What is certification?** The process of receiving official documentation after completing coursework, training in a specific field and successfully passing an examination, signifying status and a level of achievement, typically by a non-governmental organization (i.e. Center for the Assessment of Sign Language Interpretation, Board for Evaluation of Interpreters Certification)

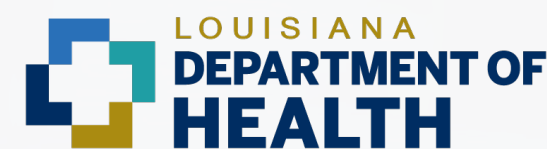


Is This Licensure?

Louisiana state law requires Louisiana Commission for the Deaf to set the minimum qualifications and registration requirements for all interpreters working in Louisiana.

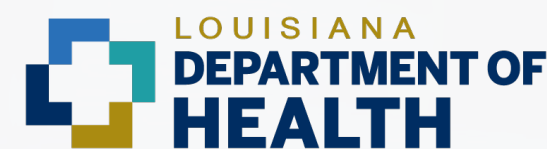
Registration FUNCTIONS as licensure, since it is required by law for state regulatory purposes.

Note: Regardless of what title (registered, licensed, etc.) is used by a state agency, if a profession has minimum qualifications defined by law, and only individuals authorized by the state can perform those functions and activities, the authorized individuals are licensed. It does not matter if the authorization is called something other than a license (for example, registration); the authorization has the legal effect of a license. This hyperlink provides a list of [State-by-State Regulations for Interpreters](#).



What Will Be Required?

- All interpreters working in PreK-12 and community settings must register with Louisiana Commission for the Deaf no later than **July 1, 2026**.
- Standards and registration requirements for interpreters working in court settings will be provided later in 2025.
- Minimum standards for qualification will include three categories:
 - Education Standard
 - Knowledge Standard
 - Performance Standard
- Final requirements will be published on the [Professional and Occupational Standards webpage](#) within the Division of Administration website. When available, Louisiana Commission for the Deaf will link directly to the requirements from [our website](#).



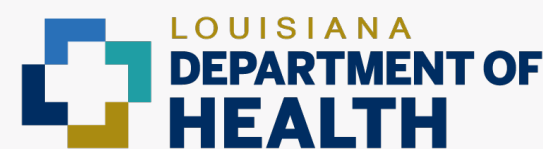
Registration and Standard Requirements for Sign Language Interpreters General Settings



Generalist Registration

For sign language interpreters providing interpreting services inclusive of all general settings with the exception of legal/court and PreK-12 educational settings which have other specific requirements.

- Valid for five years from the date of issuance; renewable based on verification of renewal requirements as defined by the Commission.
- Minimum standards for qualification will include verification of **education, performance and knowledge** requirements.



Types of Generalist Registration

- Generalist
- Provisional Generalist Registration
- Practice Permit—Supervised Support
- Practice Permit—Supervised



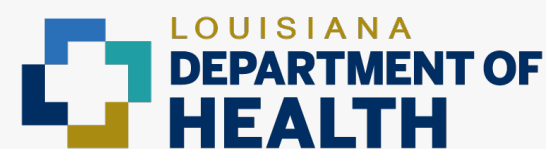
Generalist Definitions

- **Generalist Registration**—For interpreters who meet the minimum qualification standards established by the Commission to work in general and community settings.
- **Provisional Generalist Registration**—For interpreters who hold some qualifications yet have not met all of the minimum requirements established by the Commission for working in general and community settings.



Generalist Temporary Practice Permit Definitions

- **Temporary Practice Permit: Supervised Support**—For individuals who hold some verifiable professional experience yet cannot provide verification of skills or knowledge via official credentialing.
- **Temporary Practice Permit: Supervised**—For individuals practicing to gain experience in sign language interpreting in community settings under the direct supervision of a registered generalist interpreter.



Generalist Requirements

- Valid for five years from date of issuance
- Renewable based on verification of renewal requirements

Registration Type	Education Requirement	Performance Requirement	Knowledge Requirement
Generalist	* Included in certification	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Valid certification from national certifying body, such as Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID), excludes RID Ed:K-12; or• Board for Evaluation of Interpreters (BEI) advanced certification or higher	*Included in certification

Provisional Generalist Requirements

- Valid for three years from date of issuance
- May be extended for one year, up to two times, based on verification of extension requirements

Registration Type	Education Requirement	Performance Requirement (a minimum of one must be met)	Knowledge Requirement (a minimum of one must be met)
Provisional Generalist	High school diploma or equivalent, or higher	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Valid Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) Educational Certificate (Ed:K-12); or• Board for Evaluation of Interpreters (BEI) basic certification or higher; or• Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment (EIPA) score 4.0 or higher; or• Sign Language Proficiency Interview (SLPI) rating of superior or higher within the last five years	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Passed the Center for Assessment of Sign Language Interpretation (CASLI) General Knowledge Exam; or• Certificate of completion or degree from an Interpreter Training Program (ITP); or• A minimum of 20 RID/BEI approved Continuing Education Units (CEUs) and/or mentoring hours provided by a formal organization or interpreting program issued within the year prior to registration

Temporary Practice Permit—Supervised Support: Requirements

- Valid for one year from date of issuance; non-renewable

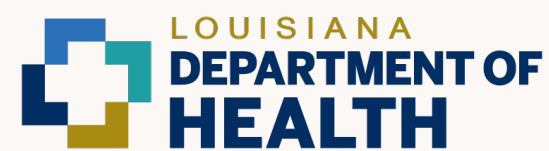
Registration Type	Target Audience	Minimum Qualifications
Temporary Practice Permit <u>Supervised Support</u>	For individuals with verifiable professional experience yet cannot provide verification of skills or knowledge via credentialing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Verifiable proof of one year or more of full-time professional interpreting experience• Applicants will be required to verify sign language skills through a Sign Language Proficiency Interpreter (SLPI) rating of advanced or higher within the last two years• Proof of professional development engagement such as:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Enrollment in a sign language interpreter training program or formal mentor program; and/or○ Minimum of 20 approved Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf/Board for Evaluation of Interpreters continuing education units accrued during each year of experience stated; and/or○ Letter from a registered interpreter verifying previously completed training, and/or supervised support, and○ One letter of recommendation from a registered interpreter and one from a sign language interpreting professional representative (may include an interpreter agency director, interpreter training program teacher, employer, professional organization representative, etc.)

Temporary Practice Permit—Supervised: Requirements

- Valid for one year
- May be extended one year based on submission of extension requirements.

Registration Type	Target Audience	Rules and Minimum Qualification
Temporary Practice Permit <u>Supervised</u>	For individuals practicing to gain experience in sign language under the direct supervision of a registered interpreter	<p>Rules</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Must be under the direct visual supervision of a registered interpreter• Must receive approval from all parties involved prior to participating• May interpret in situations which pose no to low-risk to the parities involved, as defined and approved by the registered interpreter• May observe any situation permitted by the registered interpreter and other parties <p>Minimum Qualifications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Completed two year, or enrolled in senior status of a four year interpreter training program; or• Engaged in a formal mentoring program for sign language interpreters

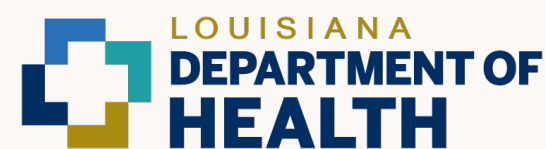
Registration and Standard Requirements for Sign Language Interpreters PreK-12 Settings



PreK-12 Registration

For sign language interpreters providing interpreting services inclusive of schools and other care and educational settings under the purview of the Louisiana Department of Education

- To be valid for five years from the date of issuance; renewable based on verification of renewal requirements.
- Minimum standards for qualification will include verification of **education, performance and knowledge** requirements.



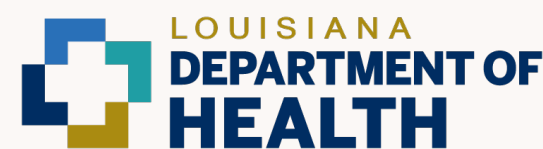
Types of Registration for PreK-12 Interpreters

- PreK-12 Registration
- PreK-12 Provisional Registration
- PreK-12 Practice Permit—Supervised



Types of Registration for PreK-12 Interpreters

- **PreK-12 Registration**—For interpreters who meet the minimum qualification standards established by the Commission to work in educational settings.
- **PreK-12 Provisional Registration**—For interpreters who hold some qualifications yet have not met all of the minimum requirements established by the Commission for working in educational settings.
- **PreK-12 Temporary Practice Permit: Supervised**—For individuals seeking to gain experience in sign language interpreting in educational settings under the direct supervision of a PreK-12 Registered Interpreter.



PreK-12 Requirements

- Valid for five years from date of issuance
- Renewable based on verification of renewal requirements

Registration Type	Education Requirement	Performance Requirement	Knowledge Requirement
PreK-12 Registration	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Associates degree; or• Minimum of 60 semester hours of college credit	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Valid certification from national certifying body; or• Board for Evaluation of Interpreters (BEI) advanced certification or higher ; or• Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment (EIPA) 4.0 score or higher	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Passed Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment (EIPA) written test

Ancillary Certificate—Transition Plan

Registration Type	Education Requirement	Performance Requirement	Knowledge Requirement
<p><i>Transition Plan</i></p> <p>Existing Louisiana Department of Education <u>Ancillary</u> certificate holders</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Minimum of one educational standard ;or• Request for extension with proof of enrollment; or• Request for exemption with verifiable employment within five years of retirement; or• Request for exemption with verifiable proof of four years or more of full time work in Pre-K-12 setting	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Standard must be met; or• Request for one-year extension may be given with verifiable progress toward achieving new standard; renewable annually up to three times with verifiable progress toward achieving performance standard	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Minimum of one performance standard must be met; or• Request for exemption with verifiable proof of proctor status for the Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment (EIPA) written test granted prior to July 1, 2025

Provisional PreK-12 Requirements

- Valid for three years
- Non-renewable
- Requires an annual maintenance plan

Registration Type	Education Requirement	Performance Requirement	Knowledge Requirement
PreK-12 Provisional	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Interpreter Training Program degree or certificate of completion; or• Minimum of 30 semester hours of college credit	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Valid certification from national certifying body; or• Board for Evaluation of Interpreters (BEI) advanced certification or higher; or• Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment (EIPA) score 3.0-3.9• EIPA pre-hire screening with result of 'OK to hire'	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No requirements

Provisional Certificate—Transition Plan

- Valid for three years
- Non-renewable
- Requires an annual maintenance plan

Registration Type	Education Requirement	Performance Requirement (a minimum of one must be met)	Knowledge Requirement (a minimum of one must be met)
<div>Transition Plan</div> <div>Existing Louisiana Department of Education Provisional Certificate Holders</div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Minimum of one education standard must be met; or• Request for extension with verifiable proof of enlistment in an associate degree program or higher with anticipated graduation date within four years	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Minimum of one performance standard must be met	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No requirements

PreK-12 Temporary Practice Permit Supervised Requirements

- Permitted only under the **direct supervision** of a Pre-K Registered Interpreter
- Valid for one year
- May be extended one time with proof of continued enrollment in a formal training opportunity for interpreters

Registration Type	Education Requirement	Qualification Requirements
PreK-12 Temporary Practice Permit Supervised	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• High school diploma or equivalent	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pre-hire screening of the Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment (EIPA) with a result of ‘hire with caution/supervision’; or• Completion of a two year sign language interpreter education program or senior status of a four year interpreter education program; or• Verifiable participation in formal mentoring, job-shadowing or training opportunities for sign language interpreters

Requirements for Renewal of Registration



Generalist Renewal

Registration Type	Renewal Requirements
Registered Generalist	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Allowable every five years• Renewable upon submission of proof of professional development via certification from the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf or the Board of Evaluation of Interpreters
Provisional Generalist	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Non-renewable• May extend for one year, up to two times with submission of the following:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Letter explaining the reason for extension; and○ 60 contact hours of Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf or Board of Evaluation of Interpreters continuing education units issued within three years; and○ Completion of a minimum of one component of the certification exam

Generalist Temporary Practice Permit Renewal

Registration Type	Renewal Requirement
Generalist Temporary Practice Permit <u>Supervised Support</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Valid for one year from date of issuance• Non-renewable
Generalist Temporary Practice Permit <u>Supervised</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Valid for one year from date of year issuance• May be extended one year with submission of evidence of continued enrollment in formal training for sign language interpreters

PreK-12 Renewal

Registration Type	Renewal Requirement
Registered PreK-12	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Valid for five years from date of issuance• Renewable upon submission of proof of professional development via current certification; and• Twenty additional hours of Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) and/or Board of Evaluation of Interpreters (BEI) approved professional development continuing education units specific to interpreting in education.• Registrants who do not hold a RID or BEI certification must submit one hundred contact hours of continuing education units
Provisional PreK-12	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Valid for three years• Non-renewable

PreK-12 Temporary Practice Permit Renewal

Registration Type	Renewal Requirement
PreK-12 Temporary Practice Permit <u>Supervised</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Valid for one year from date of issuance• May be extended one time upon verification of continued enrollment in a higher education training program or mentoring program for sign language interpreters.

Frequently Asked Questions: Registration Requirements



I am not yet certified. What actions do I need to take?

Personal Guiding Question

- *What type of setting(s) do you want to work in (general/community, PreK-12, legal)?*

Identify Your Current Qualifications:

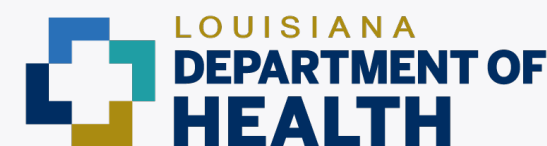
- Review your credentials, education and experience, if any.

Determine the Best Registration Type:

- Match qualifications to a registration type. Non-certified interpreters should review provisional registration opportunities.

Gather Required Documentation:

- Prepare required transcripts, credentials, letters of recommendation, exam results, etc.



I am not yet certified. What actions do I need to take?

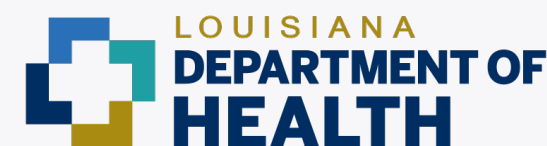
Submit Application:

- Access the [Interpreter Registry](#) to complete and submit your application to be listed on the Interpreter Registry.
- Ensure all required documents are included.
- You will be notified by the Louisiana Commission for the Deaf of your approval, denial, or request for additional information.

Once Registered; Engage in Professional Development and/or Plans for Certification :

- Enroll in training, mentoring programs, or higher education programs if necessary.
- Research allowable credentialing bodies to determine course of action for preparing and registering to take certification exams.
- Register for an exam: Once all minimum requirements for registration are met, you may apply for full registration.

Important Note: In order to work as a sign language interpreter, you must be listed on the Interpreter Registry by July 1, 2026



I am already certified. What actions do I need to take?

Personal Guiding Question

- *What type of setting(s) do you want to work in (general/community, PreK-12, legal)?*

Identify Your Current Qualifications:

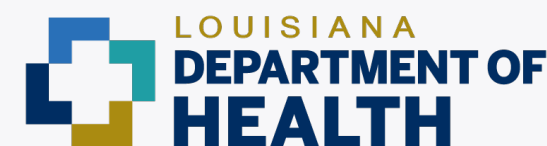
- Review your credentials, education and experience, if any.

Determine the Best Registration Type:

- Match qualifications to a registration type.

Verify Registration Requirements:

- Confirm your current certification aligns with Louisiana's state standards, based on your chosen setting.



I am already certified. What actions do I need to take?

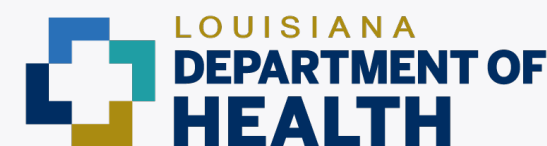
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- Ensure all required documents are included.
- You will be notified by Louisiana Commission for the Deaf of your approval, denial or request for additional information.

Once Registered, Consider Supporting a Pre-Certified Interpreter:

- Apply to become a mentor through Louisiana Commission for the Deaf Mentoring Program.
- Provide independent support to a pre-certified interpreter by assisting with skill development, exam preparation and professional growth.

Important Note: In order to work as a sign language interpreter, you must be listed on the Interpreter Registry by July 1, 2026



Questions About Registration Requirements?

Please visit our [Minimum Standards Webpage](#) to review Frequently Asked Questions.



Louisiana Commission for the Deaf

Interpreter Registry

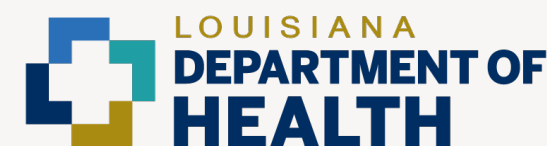


Overview of the Interpreter Registry

Mandate: Establish the process and set the criteria for the professional credentialing of interpreters. Develop and maintain a registry of credentialed interpreters, including administrative guidelines for the registration process.

Areas of Focus: Develop and maintain an easy to navigate, centralized, public-facing online platform that includes a list of sign language interpreters that have met the minimum requirements to work as an interpreter in the state of Louisiana.

Goal: Streamline access to sign language interpreters for individuals who are Deaf, DeafBlind and hard of hearing. Benefits local organizations and businesses by providing a centralized list to find and engage with qualified sign language interpreters in their area.



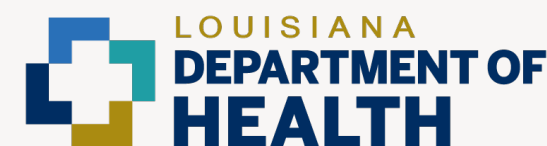
Louisiana Interpreter Registry Development

Phase 1: New Development and implementation of the Louisiana Interpreter Registry (2023)

- Designed and launched a new customized interpreter registry
- Voluntary; no required standards
- Developed technical guidance for all users of the Interpreter Registry

Phase 2: Enhancements to the Interpreter Registry (2024-2026)

- Designed and integrated new registration and renewal requirements for General/Community and PreK-12 educational interpreters; updated administrative function and public-facing formatting (2024)
- Launch enhanced Interpreter Registry to include the new registration requirements (July 2025)
- Revise and publish technical guidance for all users of the Interpreter Registry
- Registration allowed to begin (must be registered by July 2026)



Interpreter Registration Process via the Interpreter Registry

Step 1: Access the Interpreter Registry

Sign language interpreters can apply to be listed on the Louisiana Interpreter Registry by visiting www.la.egov.com/ldh/LCDInterpreterRegistry.

Step 2: Log in

New Users: Click Sign-up and follow the prompts to create an account

Existing Users: Click Log-in to access or update your application

Louisiana Interpreter Registry

Welcome to the Louisiana Interpreter Registry for American Sign Language (ASL) Interpreters. This registry is administered and maintained by the Louisiana Commission for the (LCD) pursuant to R.S. 46:2353.

To locate a Registered Interpreter in your area or to check an ASL interpreter's credentials, search by using the optional filters on the left. For more detailed information, click the Interpreter Profile" icon.

Employers or hiring parties may be responsible for conducting thorough background and criminal checks in accordance with their organization's hiring or contracting policies. L liable for the results of a background check for ASL interpreters listed in the Louisiana Interpreter Registry. Concerns regarding an interpreter's fitness to provide services may b submitted via LCD's Grievance Policy and Process by visiting LCD's website.

Sign up to join the growing roster of Registered ASL Interpreters in Louisiana!

Sign Up

Login

Interpreter Registry

Glossary

Search Filters –

Last Name

First Name

Registration Type

Interpreter Registry

View Profile	Strike Through	Last Name	First Name	Registration Type	Status	Approved Vendor	Availability
<div><div></div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div><div></div></div>	User	Test		Active	No	Full Time
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Interpreter Registration Process via the Interpreter Registry

Dashboard

Member Profile

Continuing Education

Resources

Welcome jasmine lamar

Interpreter Status: Active

Welcome to your personal dashboard. You will have access to the dashboard where you have the ability to track your application status. You will have the ability to view and respond to messages.

Member Profile

Name

lamar, jasmine

Email

Phone

Contact and Professional Information

Please use the buttons below to edit your Contact and Professional information.

Contact

Professional

Application History (2) for: lamar, jasmine

Application ID	Start Date	Approval Date	Notes	Application Status	
148	01/31/2025	01/31/2025	approved	Approved	<div>View</div>
149	01/31/2025	01/31/2025	approved	Saved	<div>View</div>

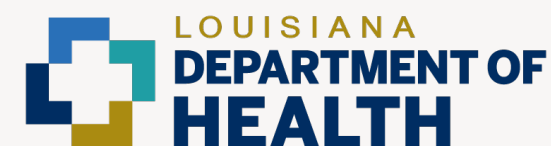
Showing 1 to 2 of 2 entries

Interpreter Registration Process via the Interpreter Registry

Renewal of Registration Process

To renew your registration, you must verify that you meet all renewal requirements. The renewal fee is \$50.00.

- Access the Interpreter Registry anytime to upload continuing education units and supporting documentation. Click save after each update (www.la.egov.com/ldh/LCDInterpreterRegistry)
- At the time of renewal, ensure all required renewal documents are submitted before completing the process.
- Once complete, click Submit and proceed with payment.



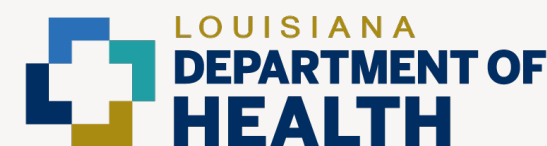
Louisiana Interpreter Registry

What happens if I work as an interpreter, but I am not registered?

- Registration through the Louisiana Interpreter Registry is mandatory to work as a sign language interpreter. If someone is found working without being listed on the registry, they will be subject to an investigation and potential disciplinary and/or legal action(s) by the Louisiana Commission for the Deaf.

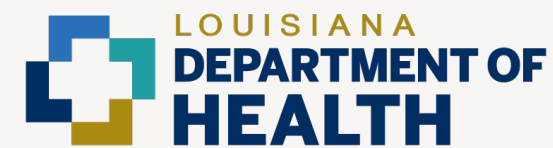
What happens to the existing registry, and what actions do I need to take?

- If you are currently listed in the registry, including those registered before March 2023, you must complete the online application and upload the required documentation for your desired registration category via the online Interpreter Registry. All registered interpreters will receive an email notification with instructions on how to update their application with the necessary documentation.



Questions about Interpreter Registry?

Please visit our [Interpreter Registry Webpage](#) to learn more!



Louisiana Commission for the Deaf

Grievance Policy



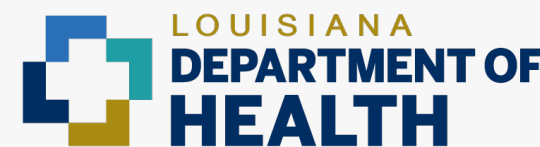
Mandate

- Specify procedures outlining grounds for denying, suspending or revoking an interpreter's registration with the state.
- Adopt and specify grievance policy and procedures and the process for disciplining interpreters.



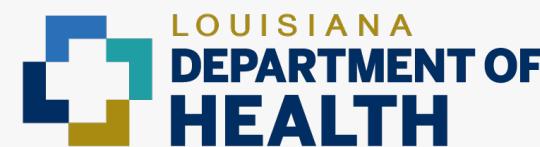
Violation Policy

- Failure to achieve or maintain the minimum standards for registration or renewal
- Use of fraud, deception or misrepresentation in the application, registration or renewal process
- Gross incompetence or grossly negligent execution of duties resulting in the violation of any of the standards of professional ethical behavior
- Use of intoxicating substances to an extent that it affects established ethical practices
- Harasses, abuses or threatens a member of the board of commissioners, or commission personnel who administer the system
- Has a conviction of a felony or misdemeanor which directly relates to the duties and responsibilities of sign language interpreting



Violation Policy

- When determining whether criminal conviction directly relates to the duties and responsibilities of sign language interpreting, the Commission shall consider the following:
 - Nature and/or seriousness of the crime
 - Relationship of the crime to the practice of interpreting
 - Extent to which the duties and responsibilities of interpreting might offer an opportunity to engage in further criminal activity
 - Relationship of the crime to the ability, capability or fitness required to perform the duties and responsibilities of interpreting
 - Extent and nature of the individual's past criminal activity
 - Age of the individual at the time of commission of the crime
 - Amount of time that has elapsed since last criminal activity
 - Conduct and work activity prior to and following the criminal activity, and evidence of the individual's rehabilitation or rehabilitative effort
 - Other evidence of the individual's present fitness, including letters of recommendation from prosecution, law enforcement or correctional officers, etc.



Disciplinary Actions

Disciplinary Actions will be taken if a violation has been identified. Example of actions are below:

- Denial, suspension or revocation of registration
- A letter of concern
- Additional education via professional development
- Mentoring by a registered sign language interpreter
- A public warning notice
- Reporting of the offense to the national certifying body or Board for Evaluation of Interpreters
- Legal action (may also apply to an unregistered interpreter in the case of fraud, misrepresentation, etc.)



High Level Overview of the Grievance Process

Formal Reporting of Grievance

- Allowed from any person or entity

Investigation and Determination

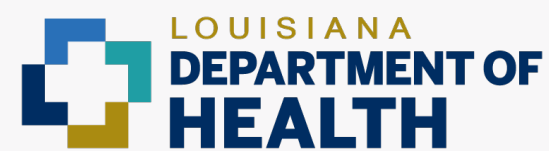
- Preliminary review
- Investigative review
- Formal review

Appeals

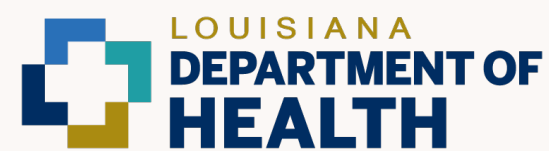


Questions about the Grievance Policy or Process?

The Louisiana Commission for the Deaf will have a detailed webpage dedicated to grievances, once approved, at lcd.la.gov.



Sign Language Interpreter Workforce Support and Development and Statewide Mentoring Program



Mandate

- Establish, administer and promote a statewide program to standardize interpreting services for those who are d/Deaf, DeafBlind or hard of hearing.
- Promote the training of interpreters and assist in the establishment of interpreter training programs.



Overview: Workforce Support and Development

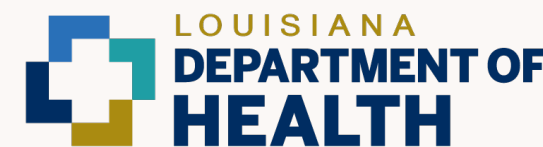
***Core Areas of Focus:** Stakeholder partnerships, professional development, supplemental professional support, advocating and promoting awareness, mentoring pathways.*

Partnerships

- Louisiana Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Louisiana Association for the Deaf, New Orleans Black Deaf Advocates
- High schools and higher education institutions
- Local school boards/districts

Advocating and Promoting Awareness

- Advocate for PreK-12 educational sign language interpreters title, salary, role, etc.
- Support interpreter education programs in Louisiana
- Promote professional development opportunities



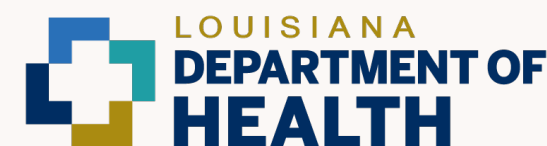
Overview: Workforce Support and Development

Supplemental Professional Support

- Financial Assistance for testing and/or tuition
- Local test administrator site locations: Center for the Assessment of Sign Language Interpretation (CASLI) and Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment (EIPA)
- Continuing Education Unit (CEU) Continuing Maintenance Program Sponsor

Statewide Mentorship Program Pathways

- Career exploration
- College internship
- One-on-one coaching
- Professional development
- Special cohort projects



Workforce Support and Development

Certification Exam Local Testing Administrator

Louisiana Commission for the Deaf partnered with the Center for Assessment of Sign Language Interpreters and Boys Town National Research Hospital to administer certification and assessment exams on their behalf.

This allows sign language interpreters to schedule certification or assessment exams within the state, which may eliminate the need for out-of-state travel.

More information about available testing dates coming soon!



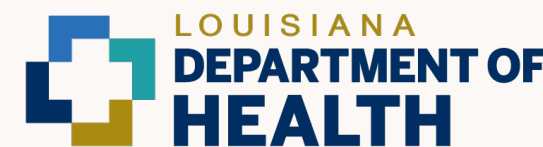
Workforce Support and Development

Approved Continuing Education Unit Certification Maintenance Program Sponsor

Louisiana Commission for the Deaf partnered with the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf to approve Continuing Education Units through the Registry of Interpreters' Certification Maintenance Program. This allows sign language interpreters to access learning opportunities to enhance their skills and maintain certification.

Opportunities Include: Academic coursework, sponsor-initiated activities, participant initiated non-registry of interpreter activities

More information about how to offer or request continuing education units coming soon!



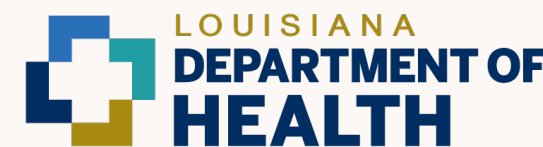
Louisiana Mentoring Program

Our Goal:

Increase the quality and quantity of sign language interpreters working in Louisiana through formal mentoring services.

Key Components

- **Skill Development:** Customized plans designed to improve interpreting proficiency and/or to achieve certification.
- **Practical Experience:** Opportunities to observe and/or participate in real-world interpreting scenarios.
- **Professional Growth:** Mentoring, coaching and exposure to diverse interpreting settings.
- **Practical Knowledge Development:** Tailored plans that focus on improving interpreting best practices, cultural competency and ethical decision making.

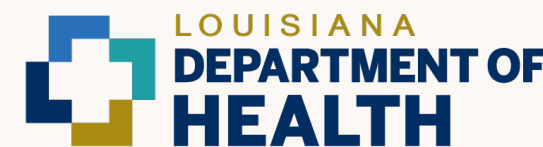


Louisiana Mentorship Program

Are you a student learning sign language?

- **YES → Consider the Career Exploration Pathway.**
 - **Purpose:** Observation to experienced interpreters in real-world settings, exposure to the interpreting profession and understanding of the interpreter's role in various settings
 - **Benefits:** Real-time observation, pre/post briefing, access to resources, networking, gain practical knowledge and understanding of workplace dynamics, ethics and professional conduct
 - **Preferred Target Audience:** Students enrolled in an accredited high school or higher education institution sign language course

NO → Move on to the next slide.

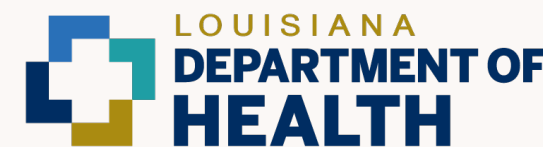


Louisiana Mentorship Program

Are you a college student enrolled in an accredited higher education institution pursuing an Interpreter Education Program?

- **YES → Consider the College Intern Pathway.**
 - **Purpose:** To help students fulfill formal internship to gain practical or professional development hours for their academic program
 - **Benefits:** Combines real-time observation, hands-on experience with paired mentor, job shadowing, networking, access to professional resources
 - **Preferred Target Audience:** Students enrolled in an Interpreter Education Program, committed to meeting their academic requirements

NO → Move on to the next slide.

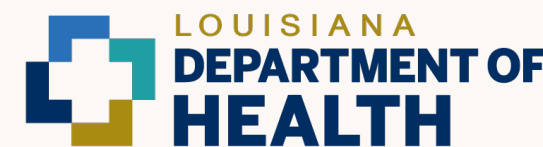


Louisiana Mentorship Program

Are you a working sign language interpreter in Louisiana seeking skill enhancement for certification or advanced goals?

- **YES → Consider the 1:1 Coaching Pathway.**
 - **Purpose:** To provide focused skill enhancement for certification preparation or achieving advanced professional goals through personalized coaching
 - **Benefits:** Individualized coaching plan, curriculum, job shadowing, peer support, access to resources, networking
 - **Preferred Target Audience:** Actively working as a sign language interpreter in Louisiana

NO → Move on to the next slide.

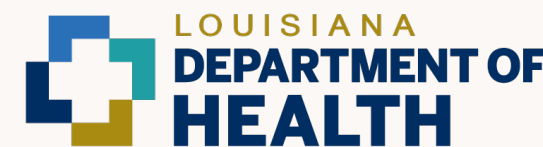


Louisiana Mentorship Program

Are you looking for ongoing training and professional development opportunities?

- **YES → Consider Continuing Education Unit (CEU) Certification Maintenance Professional Development Opportunities**
 - **Purpose:** To support lifelong learning and ongoing professional development through continuous education and training
 - **Benefits:** Free CEUs, networking, collaboration, access to expert presenters
 - **Preferred Target Audience:** Open to all sign language interpreters seeking ongoing professional growth and development

NO → Pathways may not meet your current needs. Contact the Louisiana Commission for the Deaf for guidance.

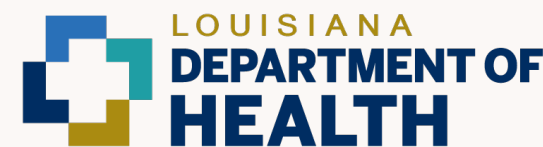


Louisiana Mentorship Program

Previous Opportunities

Pilot PreK-12 Project Cohort 1: Created by Louisiana Commission for the Deaf

- Pilot project (10 months)
- Designed for current working PreK-12 Educational Interpreters
- Focus on skills development
- Specifically tailored to individual needs and goals
- Coaching style of mentoring
- Access to a Deaf language specialist
- Offers peer mentoring
- Offers professional development opportunities
- Access to resources
- Upon **successful completion** of the project, you are required to take the Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment (EIPA) performance diagnostic exam—at no cost



Louisiana Mentorship Program

Previous Opportunities

Partnership with Idaho State University Promoting Equity in Healthcare Interpreting (PEHI) Project

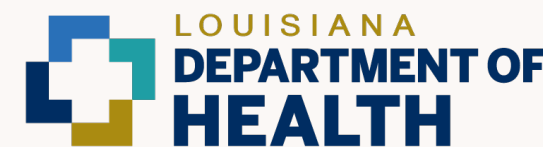
- Created by Idaho State University PEHI Project
- Watch and interpret videos featuring a Deaf medical doctor discussing various body systems
- Receive feedback
- Paired with a PEHI mentor
- Paired with a Louisiana mentor near your area



Louisiana Mentorship Program

Upcoming Opportunities created by Louisiana Commission for the Deaf

- **PreK-12 Project: Road to Excellence Cohort 2**
 - Preferred target audience
 - Actively working interpreters employed or contracted in a school system
- **Pre-Certification: Bridge to Certification Cohort 1**
 - Preferred target audience
 - Interpreters working in general and community settings actively seeking certification
 - Recent graduates from an interpreter training program seeking certification
- **College Internship**
 - Preferred target audience
 - Higher education students enrolled in an interpreter training program or similar field required.







Thank You!



Stay Connected!



We can be reached at:

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-  lcd.la.gov
-  628 N. 4th Street
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

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