TIPS

- Speak directly to the student. The interpreter will communicate your statements to him or her.
- Share lesson plans, goals and materials (books, handouts) with the interpreter.
- Communicate with the interpreter how discipline will be handled in your class.
- Be aware that the interpreting process requires the interpreter hear the question, then interpret it, before the student can participate.
- Some students may understand conversations and directions when spoken to one-on-one without interpretation. However, be aware that confusion and misunderstandings may happen.

Create a visually accessible environment:
- Have important information such as rules, directions, homework, and class notes on display.
- Student needs a clear view of the teacher, interpreter, and visual presentations.
- Provide closed captioning on videos.
- Make sure there is sufficient light for the student to see the interpreter.

Above all, treat the deaf or hard-of-hearing student as you would any other student in your classroom.

For more information on educational interpreting, the following resources are recommended:

www.classroominterpreting.org

and

“An Overview of K-12 Educational Interpreting”
The Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf
Standard Practice Paper, found at: www.rid.org

Working with an Educational Interpreter

In the K-12 Setting

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Some students have a Teacher of the Deaf/Hard-of-Hearing. This person will serve as another resource for you and can assist you throughout the year.

In addition to referencing this brochure, it is recommended that you meet with the interpreter regularly for more in-depth discussion.

The deaf or hard-of-hearing student in your classroom has an IEP that states you will be working with an Educational Interpreter. The purpose of this brochure is to address some of the questions you may have.

In addition to referencing this brochure, it is recommended that you meet with the interpreter regularly for more in-depth discussion.

**What does an Educational Interpreter do?**

- Professional sign language interpreters develop their skill through education, training, and practice.
- Interpreters increase their knowledge, skills, and professionalism through continuing education and training, as well as participation in professional organizations.
- The primary job of the educational interpreter is to interpret, ensuring the student has communication access to the school environment. This includes classroom information and peer interactions.
- The interpreter will communicate what is occurring in the classroom using sign language. If needed, the interpreter may voice for the deaf or hard of hearing student if he or she uses sign language to express him or herself.
- Like all adults in the school, the interpreter is a role model, responsible for fostering social development and academic learning.
- The interpreter works for the educational program, not for the deaf or hard of hearing student or the family.

**Member of the Team**

- The Educational Interpreter is a member of the student’s educational team that may also include other services providers, such as a:
  * Teacher of the Deaf & Hard-of-Hearing
  * Notetaker
  * Audiologist

As a member of the team, the interpreter:

- Should be aware of the student's annual educational goals and the teacher’s daily objectives.
- Should have access to information about upcoming school-wide staff meetings and activities.
- Can provide valuable contributions about how the student is functioning.
- Can answer questions and address concerns related to the student's communication needs.