



Kansas State Department of Education

Educational Interpreters for the Deaf and Categorical Aid

FAQ

1. What is special education categorical aid?

The State of Kansas allocates money for the additional cost of special education services. One of the ways this categorical money is distributed is through reimbursement for districts for those who provide special education services (special teacher, including licensed special education teachers and related service providers) and those who assist in providing special education services. This “special teacher” reimbursement is generally what is referred to as categorical aid. Other money that comes out of the state special education money is special education transportation and catastrophic aid.

2. What is the difference between a professional and a non-professional?

A professional is someone who is “qualified to provide special education or related services to exceptional children”. A non-professional is someone who is “qualified to assist in the provision of special education or related services to exceptional children”. A non-professional for categorical aid may be licensed or qualified to provide some services, but require supervision. A non-professional for categorical aid purposes may or may not be referred to as a paraprofessional.

3. What are the State requirements for Interpreters?

Currently a 3.5 score on the EIPA is required and a 4.0 on the ESSE or KQAS assessments to allow a district to claim an interpreter as a professional. RID membership with NIC or ED:K-12 is also accepted. The types of assessments accepted by KSDE and required scores for each are in the current year’s Special Education Reimbursement Guide. The Special Education Reimbursement Guide is updated yearly, and may be found at: <http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=538>

4. What is a Professional Development Plan (PDP)?

A PDP can be used for an interpreter who has achieved at least a 3.0 on the EIPA or the ESSE to allow a district to pay and claim the interpreter as a professional for two years while additional skill is gained. The Plan should show how the deficiencies in the interpreter’s skills will be addressed, and may be applied for two times for each interpreter.

5. Is in-service required for interpreters claimed as paraeducators?

Yes, for categorical aid reimbursement, interpreter non-professionals are required to have documented in-service. The amount of in-service is dependent on the number of years of employment in Kansas. Please refer to the Reimbursement Guide for more information.

6. Is a district allowed to have additional requirements for interpreters?

Yes. The Kansas State Department of Education does not set local school policy. The minimums discussed in this document are for districts to claim reimbursement only, and are not binding in any other manner on districts or individuals.

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