

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



Educational Interpreters for the Deaf and Categorical Aid

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 the “special teachers” 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, Medicaid reimbursement, and catastrophic aid. Those “qualified to provide special education or related services” are called “Professionals” in the program and those who are “qualified to assist in the provision of special education or related services” are called “Non-professionals” in the program.

What are the State requirements for Interpreters?

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>

What is a Professional Development Plan (PDP)?

A PDP allows a district to pay and claim an interpreter who is slightly below the required scores 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. One additional PDP is possible for an interpreter.

Is in-service required for interpreters claimed as paraeducators?

Yes. For categorical aid reimbursement 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.

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.

For more information, contact:

Evelyn Alden
Special Education and Title Services.
ealden@ksde.org.



Kansas State Department of Education
900 S.W. Jackson Street, Suite 102
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1212
www.ksde.org

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