

Further Information About Interpreter Qualifications

The regulations specify the Virginia Quality Assurance Screening (VQAS) Level III or Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf certification as required qualifications. The VQAS Level III indicates a person interprets the message with 85% accuracy. Persons with entry level skills (Level I) have demonstrated 50% accuracy in conveying the message.

Since these regulations were first enacted, the Virginia Department for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing has recognized the National Association for the Deaf (NAD) Level 4 as equivalent to a VQAS Level III. Therefore, persons with NAD-4 are considered qualified, whereas persons with less than Level 4 are not qualified.

Due to the shortage of qualified interpreters, the Regulations also include provisions for a waiver of the requirements. Please be reminded that a waiver must be submitted for any person who does not meet the qualification standards and shall be submitted to the Virginia Department of Education within 30 days of the person's assignment or reassignment. The form found in Attachment C shall be used for submission of a request for a waiver. Persons who do not meet the qualification requirements and are not eligible to receive a waiver are not qualified to provide interpreting services in Virginia public schools.

The Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) has produced a brochure describing the qualifications, role and responsibilities of educational interpreters. This can be found on the VDOE web page at <http://www.pen.k12.va.us/VDOE/sess/edu-interpreting-srvcs.pdf>.