

The Role of an Educational Interpreter

| DOES | DOES NOT |
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| Provide interpreting or a specific student or group of students who are Deaf or HH during classes, events, field trips, etc. | Provide tutoring, instruction, or supervision of students |
| Accurately interpret the words/meaning of teachers, other students, or other speakers into sign language | Pull students who are Deaf or HH for tutoring or instructional time |
| Provide effective communication between the teacher, other students, and other school personnel or visitors | Serve as an educational assistant, paraprofessional, or tutor |
| Serve as an ASL language model for students | Initialize or short cut full language (ASL) |
| Teach students how to use an interpreter | Handle discipline |
| Serve as part of the IEP team to share observations on student engagement, learning, language, processing, socialization, etc. | Serves as the interpreter for the IEP meeting |
| Advise the teacher on how to set up the classroom to be inclusive of Deaf and hard of hearing students | Force the student to pay attention or to participate |
| Interpret ALL communication—teacher, side comments, student discussion, announcements, etc., ALL communication | Tell students that what was said doesn't matter or doesn't apply to them |
| Interpret during recess, lunch, and other "down" times to facilitate relationship building between the Deaf/HH student and peers | Become the social support for the student, inhibiting the natural growth of peer relationships |
| Allow children to be children | Expect the Deaf/HH student to have different reactions or behavior than hearing peers |
| Have certification and is not new (less than three years experience) to the field | Supervise students while the teacher leaves the room |
| Advocate | Serve as a parent, therapist, mentor, or confidante |
| Exhibit an outgoing personality, stepping outside comfort zones to help bridge communication between classmates | Become a barrier to direct relationships between the teacher and student. Interpreters should not explain, teach, or answer questions. |
| Respect the Deaf student's right to autonomy and privacy | Repeat what the student has said, engage in gossip, or otherwise share information a person not engaged in the conversation would know |

**These were taken from RID, *Deaf Eyes on Interpreting*, and classroominterpreting.org.

If you have questions or need educational interpreters, please contact Bridges for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.



bridgesfordeafandhh.org | 615.248.8828 (v) | 615.290.5147 (vp)