

Educational Sign Language Interpreters

Who are we?

Educational Sign Language Interpreters are part of Inclusive Student Services at the Durham District School Board (DDSB). Fluent in both American Sign Language (ASL) and English, our interpreters bridge communication between D/deaf or hard-of-hearing students and hearing individuals in schools. Many interpreters have lived experience within the D/deaf community and/or have completed accredited interpreting programs.

What do we do?

We support D/deaf students from kindergarten to Grade 12 whose primary language is ASL, ensuring their right to communication and equal access to education. Our services include:

- **Facilitating Communication** – Accurately interpreting spoken language into ASL and signed responses into spoken English.
- **Promoting Inclusion** – Supporting full participation in class discussions, extracurricular activities, assemblies, and excursions.
- **Ensuring Academic Access** – Helping students engage with instructional content in a meaningful way. Sharing information with school staff to support the development of goals and learning strategies for the student's Individual Education Plan (IEP).
- **Providing Individualized Support** – Gathering insights from students, caregivers, and educators to tailor interpretation to each student's needs.
- **Preparing for Lessons & Activities** – Reviewing materials in advance to ensure clear and accurate interpretation.
- **Collaborating with Educators** – Ensuring understanding of lesson plans and activities to plan and provide strategies for effective interpretation (lighting, seating arrangements, speaking rate, background noise levels).
- **Raising Awareness & Advocating** – Helping school staff understand the role of interpreters, D/deaf culture, and best practices for inclusion and access to communication.

Privacy and Ethics

Educational Sign Language Interpreters follow the Canadian Association of Sign Language Interpreters (CASLI) ethical guidelines:

- **Confidentiality** – All interpreted information remains private unless disclosure is legally required or necessary for safety.
- **Neutrality** – Interpreters remain impartial, ensuring accurate communication without personal input.
- **Professional Boundaries** – Student information is only shared within professional contexts.

Accessing Our Services

- **D/deaf students who communicate using ASL can access an interpreter. Caregivers, students, school staff, and/or outside agencies, with consent, can request services through the school's Special Education Resource Teacher (SERT).**
- **Interpreting services are available during instructional time. Additional requests (e.g., after-school activities) depend on interpreter availability. For community interpreter services, visit the CASLI directory (www.casli.ca).**

How to connect with Educational Sign Language Interpreters

For more information, contact the Senior Manager and Clinical Lead of Speech-Language and Hearing Services:

1-800-265-3968 ext. 6378 or 905-666-6378

[DDSB Educational Sign Language Interpreters](#)

Inclusive
STUDENT SERVICES