

# 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](http://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

