

Education of Children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing

Emphasis: Educational Interpreters

**February 2015 State Board
Meeting**

**WHY WE'RE
HERE**

LR 517 – to study ways to improve quality and availability of sign language interpreters in the community and in public schools.

4 work groups – one group discussed interpreters in the public schools and reported back to Steering Committee

Community Interpreters are licensed by the Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (NCDHH) – education and religion are exempt from NCDHH licensure

Recommendation is to keep educational interpreter qualifications in Rule 51 and under the direction of NDE.

January 2015 - John Wyvill, Director of NCDHH, presented to the State Board

Recommendation: Raise the minimum EIPA score for educational interpreters from 3.5 to 4.0 in Rule 51

NDE has been funding professional development for educational interpreters for the past 18 years

HISTORY

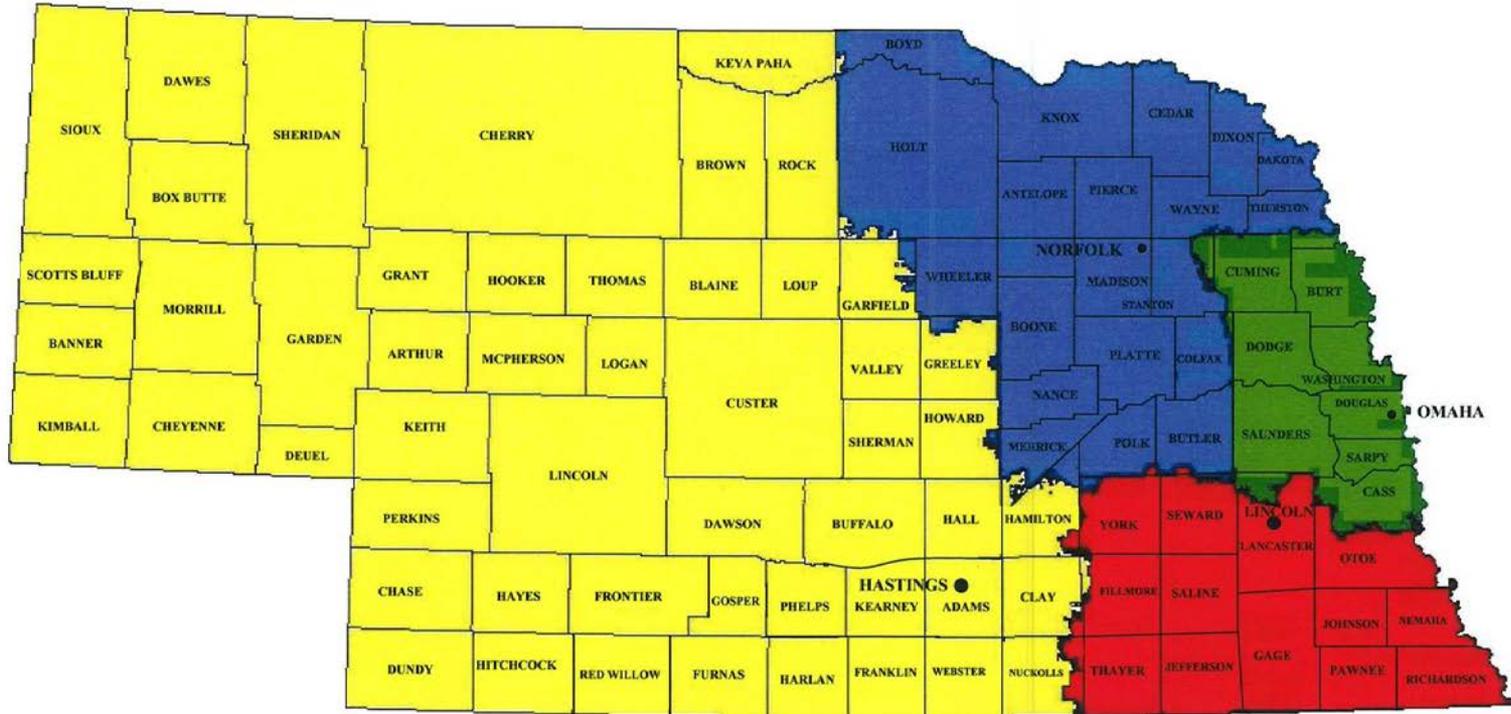
1997 – Nebraska Unicameral decided to close the Nebraska School for the Deaf (NSD) in Omaha

A State Plan for the Education of Children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing was approved by the State Board of Education.

To carry out the State Plan, the Nebraska Regional Programs for Children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing were established, along with finalizing a contract with the Iowa School for the Deaf (ISD) in Council Bluffs for students who require a residential setting. An appropriation previously used for NSD has been made available annually to support the State Plan. The State Plan was revised and approved by the State Board in 2004.

Nebraska

Regional Programs for Students Who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing



Regional Programs for Students who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing

	Central/Western Partnership	402-463-5611	sczaplew@esu9.org	Sue Czaplewski, Coordinator
	Metro Regional Program	402-339-2090	diane_meyer@ralstonschools.org	Diane L. Meyer, Coordinator
	Northeast Nebraska Regional Program	402-644-2507	jhoffart@npsne.org	Jill Hoffart, Coordinator
	Southeast Nebraska Regional Program	402-436-1897	jbird@lps.org	Jill Bird, Coordinator



Nebraska
Department of
Education

Information Source:

Regional Programs - Nebraska Department of Education

Rhonda Fleischer, State Liaison for Programs for Children Who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing, (402) 463-5611, rfleisch@esu9.org

Roles of the Nebraska Regional Programs for Children who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Approved by State Board of Education - December 10, 2004

- Act as a networking system
- Create social and educational opportunities for students, including summer educational experiences
- Encourage family involvement
- Promote cooperative agreements among service providers and equity for all children

- Develop increased professional development opportunities
- Provide interpreter training opportunities**
- Act as a resource to families, students, and schools
- Provide access to Deaf and hard of hearing role models
- Provide information about technological equipment and specialized materials and information

School districts are responsible for providing all special education services to children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing. The Nebraska Regional Programs provide support to the districts.

Nebraska was one of the first states to establish standards for educational interpreters, about 15 years ago. In the 2014 Rule revision, the minimum requirement for professional development clock hours was increased.

2014 STATE STANDARDS

EIPA 3.0	EIPA 3.5	EIPA 4.0	Have a standard, no skill or knowledge specified	No Standards
7 STATES	24 STATES	11 STATES	4 STATES	5 STATES (Includes D.C.)
No EIPA Written	10 states require EIPA Written	5 states require EIPA Written		

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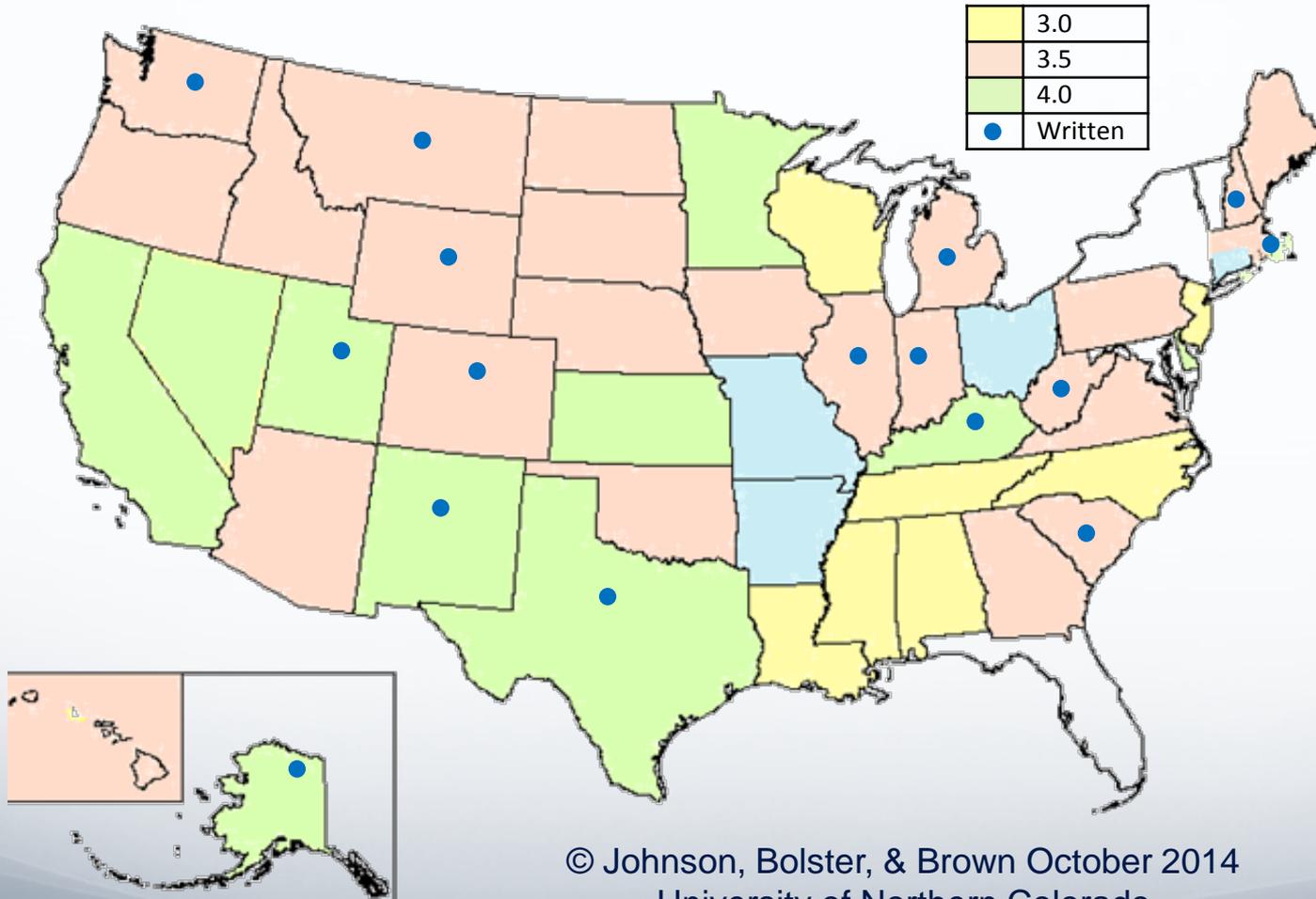
2014 States Using EIPA Including EIPA Written Test (W)

EIPA 3.0	EIPA 3.5		EIPA 4.0
AL	AZ	ND	AK + W
LA	CO + W	NE	CA
MS	GA	NH + W	DE
NJ	HI	OK	KS
NC	ID	OR	KY + W
TN	IL + W	PA	MN
WI	IN + W	SC + W	NM
	IA	SD	NV
	MA	VA	RI + W
	ME	WV + W	TX + W
	MI + W	WA + W	UT + W
	MT + W	WY + W	
7	24		11

Thanks to Dr. Cathy Carotta and Ms. Frances Beurivage at Boystown National Research Hospital and the Center for Childhood Deafness for allowing access to data from the EIPA and EIPA Written Test.

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2014 EIPA STATE STANDARDS



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Once an interpreter scores 3.5 or above on the EIPA, they are qualified to work as an educational interpreter in Nebraska and are not required to retest. They are required to accumulate professional development clock hours.

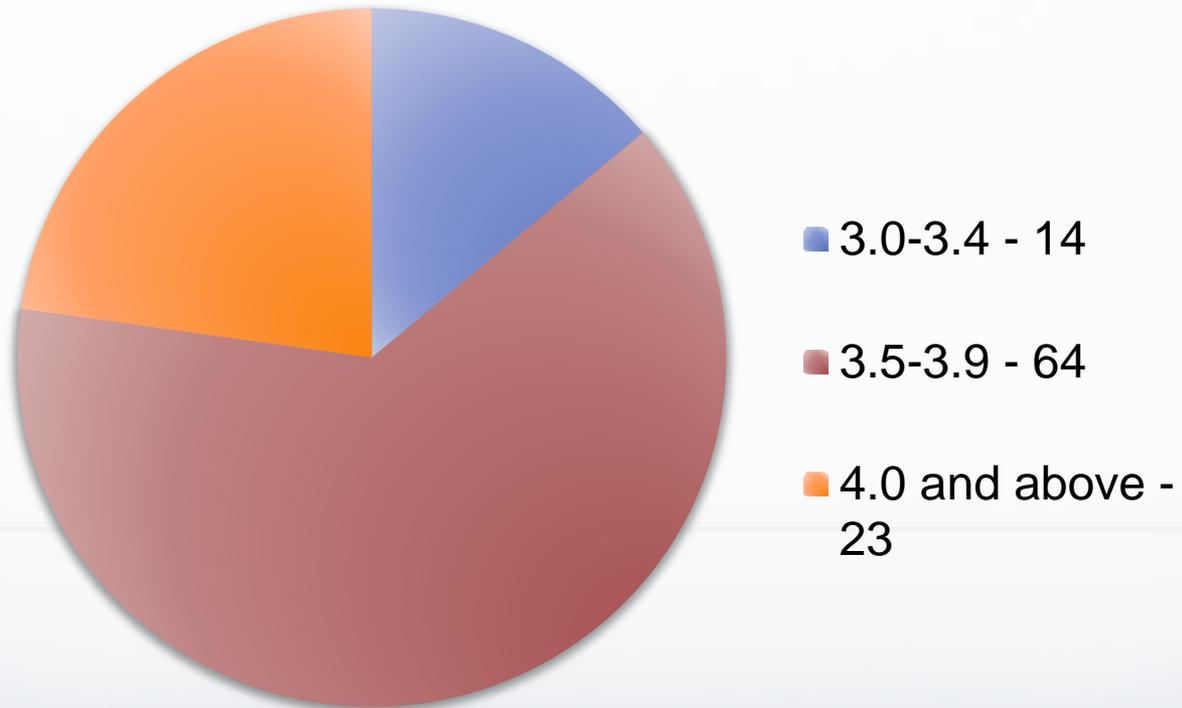
A district can choose to exceed the standards established in Rule 51.

SUPPORT FOR INTERPRETERS

Other skills required of educational interpreters:

- *be an effective member of an IEP team
- *work collaboratively with a wide variety of educational colleagues
- *exhibit professionalism and maintain confidentiality
- *develop a rapport with students, families and educational staff
- *understand and implement content area curriculum
- *demonstrate flexibility in assignments

Nebraska Interpreter Scores



	CWNP	Metro	NERP	SNRP
	Hastings	Ralston	Norfolk	Lincoln
Number of students who use Interpreters	26	70	14	12
Number of Interpreters	22	38	14	27
Average EIPA Score	3.7	3.8	3.8	3.6

Total number of students with a primary verification of Hearing Impairment - 796

Students at the Iowa School for the Deaf - 13

Trainings 13-14

- Mentoring
- TIPS (Training Interpreters in Public Schools)
- TASK-12 (Training and Assessment of Interpreters in K-12)
- EIPA Video Conferences
- ASL Immersion (4 days)
- Statewide Interpreter Workshop (2 days)
- Regional Workshops (Linsay Darnall)
- Attendance at National Conferences

89 Interpreters participated in professional development funded by NDE.

Previous Investments

- *Front Range Training Program in Colorado
- *UNO Interpreter Training Program
- *Statewide Mentoring from Boys Town staff

NDE DHH Budget

	2014-15	2015-16 (5% increase)
Administration	\$19,063	
Nebraska DHH Regional Programs	\$1,637,414	
*ISD Residential (Educational costs are paid by the local district)	\$50,000	
ESU#9 Contact (Liaison plus special projects)	\$200,500	
**Interpreter Training	\$64,648	
	\$1,971,625	\$2,070,206

*Balance of residential paid by NDE from SPED reimbursement funds.
(\$300,000 est.)

**Approximately \$100,000 is available from the Nebraska Regional Programs and the ESU#9 contract to fund additional training for educational interpreters. (Total \$164,648 est.)

**POSSIBLE
IMPACTS OF
PROPOSED
RULE CHANGE**

Cost of EIPA is \$335 per assessment. It is offered in Nebraska twice a year. The Nebraska Regional Programs currently reimburse interpreters for some or all of that cost. The financial support provided by the regions may include travel expenses.

A potential financial impact to school districts would be the possibility of higher salaries, due to the increased requirements.

Higher standards could increase the shortage of qualified interpreters

Interpreters would need comprehensive intense training with a scope and sequence specifically designed to target the skills needed to raise scores from 3.5 to 4.0. That would be a lengthy process.