



STATE OF ALABAMA  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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July 23, 2012

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** County and City Superintendents of Education

**FROM:** Thomas R. Bice *TJB*  
State Superintendent of Education

**RE:** Interpreter/Transliterators Services

According to the *Alabama Licensure Law*, Section 34-16-1, anyone who provides interpreting or transliterating services for hire shall be licensed by the Alabama Licensure Board for Interpreters and Transliterators (ALBIT). The purpose of this law is to ensure that each Alabama citizen who is in need of these services is provided with competent and qualified interpreters. Thus, services provided for students within our local school systems must be provided by a licensed interpreter or transliterator.

Besides the state law, the federal law, *Individuals With Disabilities Education Act* (IDEA), requires the State Department of Education (SDE), Special Education Services (SES) Section, to monitor local school systems to ensure that a free appropriate public education (FAPE) is provided for students with certain disabilities. Any student who is hard of hearing, deaf, or deaf-blind, as defined in the law, is entitled to FAPE pursuant to the IDEA as per the student's Individualized Education Program. No student with any of these conditions who is in need of these services should be denied a licensed interpreter or provided a classroom aide as a substitute for a licensed interpreter. The SDE has the responsibility to monitor and confirm that each school system is providing licensed interpreters to work with these particular students. Thus, your school system's personnel files must include documentation of the license held by each staff member who provides sign language, interpreting, translation, and/or transliteration services to students.

Failure to comply with these requirements may result in findings of noncompliance with SES and a letter from ALBIT. Should you have questions regarding whether a current or potential employee is licensed and therefore qualified to provide interpreting or transliterating services to a child, you may visit the ALBIT Web site, which is located at [www.albit.state.al.us/roster](http://www.albit.state.al.us/roster). Interpreters or transliterators who are in compliance with the licensure requirements will be listed under Licensed Interpreters, Permitted Interpreters, Educational Interpreters, or Provisional Interpreters. Any interpreter on any of these lists is a qualified candidate for employment. The ALBIT is in the process of including the county of residence for interpreters for your convenience. For now, however, interpreters may be searched by the city

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in which they reside or by their name. If you need to contact any of the interpreters on the various rosters, please contact the ALBIT office at (334) 277-8881.

The SDE is dedicated to providing quality services to all students in the state of Alabama. Accordingly, the SDE fully supports this initiative that furthers and promotes the provision of quality education through the verification of proper licensure for personnel who will be working with the hard of hearing, deaf, or deaf-blind students. Should you have questions regarding this memorandum, please contact Ms. Fannie Adams at (334) 242-8114 or by e-mail at [fadams@alsde.edu](mailto:fadams@alsde.edu).

TRB/FA/SH

cc: City and County Special Education Coordinators  
Mrs. Sherrill W. Parris  
Dr. Linda Felton-Smith  
Ms. Crystal Richardson  
Ms. Cynthia C. Lester  
Ms. Fannie Adams

**FY12-2100**