

Dear Members of the Interpreting Practices Board,

I am writing to formally express my concerns regarding the imminent shortage of educational interpreters that the Las Cruces Public Schools district anticipates within the next two months.

As you are aware, the Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment (EIPA) began limiting how often an individual may take the exam to once per year as of April 29, 2024. I am concerned that I, along with future provisional interpreters, am not reasonably afforded the same opportunity to reflect on and improve test scores every six months, as provisional interpreters prior to this policy change were permitted.

The most recent EIPA results I received were from my June 2024 examination, which were not released until one year and one week later. I earned a score of 3.5. During my time holding a provisional license, I have demonstrated significant professional growth while working closely with my mentor, Lena Stavely. I retook the EIPA in December 2025 and now anticipate receiving my results no earlier than June 2026.

Unfortunately, the restriction on how frequently the exam may be retaken, combined with the extended delay in receiving results and the limited availability of testing times and locations in New Mexico—currently capped at two statewide testing windows per year—has created unreasonable and unrealistic barriers for provisional licensees attempting to achieve certification within the required five-year timeframe.

I would also like to note that I relocated to New Mexico from California with eight years of experience as an educational interpreter and a certification that is not recognized by the state of New Mexico. Despite my experience and continued professional development, I was still unable to navigate the numerous obstacles required to obtain certification within the five-year period.

While I understand that there are two alternative certification examinations available, my professional focus has always been—and will continue to be—within educational interpreting. As such, I have dedicated my efforts exclusively to studying for, rehearsing, analyzing, and rigorously improving my performance on the Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment.

As my license approaches expiration alongside a significant number of provisional license holders—many of whom were granted extensions prior to my relocation to New Mexico—this situation will inevitably result in a shortage of interpreters, leaving students without licensed interpreters, either certified or provisionally licensed, for an undetermined period of time.

I respectfully urge the Board to review the current legal requirements and systemic barriers that prevent timely and necessary policy adjustments as circumstances evolve. I appreciate your time and consideration and welcome the opportunity to provide any additional information that may assist in your review.

Sincerely,
Kyle Laitinen
PSL0034