

Interpreter Testing/Training Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

What is required for me to be an enrolled Interpreter/Translator in the Illinois Early Intervention System?

Completion of the System's Overview Training, completion of the one day Interpreter Training, and a passing score on an oral interpreter proficiency exam and/or written translation proficiency exam.

Why is this required?

New standards were implemented on March 1, 2008 for all new bi-lingual interpreters and the new interpreter requirements must be completed for all bi-lingual interpreters enrolled in the EI system on or before September 1, 2008.

How do I register for the exam?

Contact the Illinois EI Training Program toll free at 866-509-3867 for an appointment. Visit the website www.illinoiseittraining.org for dates and locations near you. Registration for the Interpreter Training can be done online.

What is the cost of the exams?

The oral interpretation exam is \$65 and the written translation exam is \$65 which totals \$130 for those planning to take both tests. No payment is required for the 1 day face to face Interpreter Training.

How and when do I need to pay for the exam?

Payment is required during pre-registration and **will not** be accepted at the testing site. Payment can be made by cash, check, money order, or major charge card (VISA/MasterCard). Checks should be made payable to UCP of Greater Chicago and may be mailed to or dropped off at the Illinois Early Intervention Training Program office at 7550 W. 183rd Street, Tinley Park, Illinois 60477. Payment must be received prior to your testing date.

What will the exam test for?

Proficiency testing will measure interpreter candidates' interpretation ability, or the ability to render a speaker's dictation from a source language into a target language, and vice/versa. Candidates completing the oral exam will be graded on accuracy & completion, terminology, pace, and listening skills. With regards to written translation, candidates will be graded on areas such as spelling, grammar and word usage (including accents, sentence structure, verb, tenses, etc.).

How much time will I have for the exam?

2 hours is the maximum time allowed to complete the written exam. 30 minutes is the maximum time allowed for the oral exam.

What will the oral exam include?

The oral exam will be recorded and is broken down into three sections. There are two sections on sight translation, one section of sight translation from the family's native language into English and another section from English into the family's native language. The third section of the oral exam is an audio recording of a dialogue and the candidate will be required to interpret the dialogue. You **MAY NOT** use a dictionary for the oral portion of the exam. Note taking is **NOT** allowed for any part of this exam.

What can I expect from the written exam?

You will be allowed up to 2 hours to complete this exam. Once you begin the exam you may not leave the room until you are finished. If you leave the room during the exam you will be considered finished with the exam. You will be required to turn your cell phone off. Applicants are allowed to use one dictionary, and no additional books, notes, notebooks, or reference aids will be allowed. Electronic dictionaries are not acceptable. There are four sections of this exam which include translation from English to the target language and from the target language to English. There are two sections on word translation and two sections on paragraph translation. You will be graded on areas such as spelling, grammar and word usage (including accents, sentence structure, verb, tenses, etc.).

What do I need to bring the day I take the proficiency exam?

You should arrive 15 minutes prior to your testing time and you will be required to show **photo identification**. For those who plan to complete the written exam you should also have a **black or blue ink pen** and you may bring **one** dictionary. Electronic dictionaries are **NOT** acceptable.

What level of knowledge is required for the proficiency exam?

Approximately a high school graduate level of knowledge is required.

Can I do both the oral and written exam on the same day?

Yes, as long as you pre-register and provide pre-payment for each exam prior to the day of the exam. Those who are completing both exams in one day will need to allow at least 2.5 hours to complete their exams. The Interpreter Training will always be on a different day from the day of your proficiency exam.

How will the scores be reported?

The written and oral exams are outsourced and the EI Training Program will notify the applicant by mail when their grade comes in. It will take approximately 30 business days (45 calendar days) to have the exam graded. The EI Training Program will notify Provider Connections of passing scores. The applicant should also notify Provider Connections and the Child and Family Connections offices when they have passed the exam and completed the Interpreter Training.

What if I don't pass the exam? Can I take it again?

Applicants may take the test up to 2x in a 6 month period and must pay each time they take the test (\$65 for the oral exam and \$65 for the written exam).

Do I need to take the Interpreter Training first?

It is recommended (but not a pre-requisite) for each candidate complete the Systems Overview Training and the one day Interpreter Training prior to completing the proficiency exam.

What can I expect out of the training?

The Interpreter Training will include an overview of what it means to be an Interpreter within Early Intervention. The practice and ethics of being an EI Interpreter will be included. The training will also include an interactive format, with the opportunity for less experienced Interpreters to benefit from the experience of the group.

Is there anything else I need to know about the day of the exam?

It is important to remember that you will not be permitted to leave the testing room during the test. If you need to leave the testing room, the exam will be considered completed. Please plan accordingly.

If you arrive early you may be asked to wait until your scheduled time. If you arrive late for your appointment you may be required to reschedule your testing date for another day.

The proctor will not be able to provide you any assistance other than giving basic instructions. You will not be allowed to leave with the exam or any notes you have made under any circumstances.

Furthermore, there are multiple versions of the exam. Your testing experience may be different from another Interpreter's depending on what version of the exam you complete.