

## Translation/Interpretation Resources

As directed in the BEC entitled “Educating Students with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) and English Language Learners (ELL)” (22 Pa. Code §4.26):

*Federal regulations require districts to provide information about assessment, academic achievement and related issues to parents in their native language or in their preferred mode of communication. This means that it is the district’s/charter school’s responsibility to provide for translation and interpretation services.*

Suggested resources for translation and interpretation services:

1. Often families move to a particular area due to some connection in your community (relatives already living in the area; job relocation; sponsorship through a religious or refugee agency, etc). Check to see if any family members, employers, or agency staff are available to provide such services.
2. Check with foreign language teachers in your district to see if they are able to provide such services (or are aware of others who might be able to provide them).
3. Check with the foreign language departments of local colleges and universities to see if they have anyone on staff able to provide such services (including faculty in other departments who may speak the language).
  - Clarion University of Pennsylvania, Department of Modern Languages and Cultures: 814-226-2296
4. Check with local colleges/universities to see if they offer translation support services to international students. Also, the international students themselves may be available to serve as translators.
  - Clarion University of Pennsylvania, Office of International Programs: 814-393-2340
5. Search the National Linguistic Assets (NLA) Database (<http://www.ncela.gwu.edu/databases/NLAD/search.php>) for translation and interpretation services (can search by location).
6. Utilize translations/interpretation services via technology: One of the largest such providers is **Language Lines Service** (<http://www.languageline.com>; 1-800-752-0093, ext. 691), which was previously affiliated with AT&T. They have professional interpreters available 24/7/365 to provide both over-the-phone interpretation services and document translation. Fees vary depending on the level of services needed (ballpark: \$2.50-\$4.50/minute).

The results of an internet search indicated the following also provide over-the-phone interpreters (for a fee):

- Tele-Interpreters (<http://telephone-translators-interpretors.com/index.html>)
- Telelanguage (<http://www.telelanguage.com>)

The following sites provide “machine” translation (i.e., software is used to substitute words in one language for words with similar meaning in another language). There are several limitations to using such translations.

Those that are of no-cost are usually limited in terms of the length of text you can type in.

More importantly, however, such translations are limited by the fact they are done by “machine” and not by human speakers fluent in both languages – machine translations are “word for word” and may not result in an accurate translation in terms of the meaning of the sentence/passage as a whole. In the best of cases, this may simply result in confusion; in the worst of cases, it could result the communication of a totally unintended insult. Use such translations with caution (and as a last resort):

Free online services:

alphaWorks (IBM) - <http://www.alphaworks.ibm.com>

FreeTranslation – <http://www.freetranslation.com>

InterTran – <http://intertran3.tranexp.com>

WorldLingo –

[http://www.worldlingo.com/products\\_services/worldlingo\\_translator.html](http://www.worldlingo.com/products_services/worldlingo_translator.html)

Software machine translation packages for purchase:

Systran – <http://www.systransoft.com>