

TRANSLATION & INTERPRETATION PROGRAM AT PSSC

"The position taken in this monograph is that attention to developing the special linguistic abilities of young interpreters can serve to encourage immigrant students' interest in pursuing their English studies more aggressively as well as in perfecting their native language skills. While there are many different ways of fostering the continued development of the unique abilities of these youngsters beginning in elementary school, these particular guidelines focus on the high school level because it is at this level when many immigrant students are most at risk. It is our position that students identified by schools as gifted in the area of interpretation and translation can be encouraged to consider careers in which their special language skills can give them an advantage. As students begin to form career goals, they are more likely to form academic goals as well."

----- Claudia Angelelli, Kerry Enright and Guadalupe Valdés, Stanford University
"Developing the Talents and Abilities of Linguistically Gifted Bilingual Students:
Guidelines for Developing Curriculum at the High School Level"

In the Translation & Interpretation program at PSSC, students:

- learn many of the same skills used by professional interpreters
- learn how professional translators do a project
- improve their English skills
- improve their heritage language skills
- learn about careers where language skills are valued
- provide services to schools as Student Interpreters
- prepare for DSHS medical interpreter certification

For more information about the T&I program at PSSC contact Dave Cotlove cotlovdw@HSD401.org or Courtney Searls-Ridge Courtney.SearlsRidge@gmail.com

Adult Interpreter Required!

Student Interpreters have been trained to recognize situations which require an adult interpreter or in which there may be a conflict of interest for the Student Interpreter. **Please do not pressure our Student Interpreters to interpret if they decline an assignment or if they request to be dismissed from an assignment that is already in progress.**

Student Interpreters may not interpret in situations where confidential or personal information is likely to be disclosed.

- Knowledge of sensitive information places a heavy emotional burden on young Student Interpreters. For example, they may learn things about people they know that make them feel uncomfortable. Even worse, the obligation to maintain confidentiality means they cannot talk to anyone about these feelings.
- If confidential information becomes public through other channels, the Student Interpreter may be unjustly blamed for the disclosure.

Student Interpreters may not interpret in situations which are likely to become adversarial.

- Interpreting in highly charged situations places a heavy emotional burden on young Student Interpreters.
- Adversarial situations can quickly and unpredictably escalate into physical violence. The interpreter could become the target of an angry or frustrated party to a dispute.
- There may be legal ramifications if a Student Interpreter renders an inaccurate or incomplete interpretation in a sensitive situation.

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Student Interpreters may not interpret in situations in which they do not understand the concepts being discussed or the vocabulary being used.

- An interpreter cannot interpret information that he or she does not understand.
- Asking a Student Interpreter to interpret for a complex adult event is setting the student and the event up for failure and putting the reputation of your program at risk.

Student Interpreters may not translate written materials.

- Written translation requires excellent writing skills and years of study and experience.
- Distributing poorly written materials harms your image, diminishes your credibility, and may be insulting to the target reader.
- Distributing inaccurate information will cause problems and frustration.

Please contact _____ at _____ if you have any questions about the appropriate use of Student Interpreters.



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Teaming with an Interpreter Online Training Now Available

(Burien, WA) – Highline Public Schools announces the availability of an on-line, self-study training, *Teaming with an Interpreter*, at www.speakyourlanguages.com/training.

This training is for anyone who needs to communicate using a spoken-language interpreter and is available at no cost. It is useful for all types of organizations including businesses, professional services, non-profits, government agencies, and educational institutions. The goal of the training is to enable people to get beyond their fears and other obstacles so that they can communicate clearly and build strong relationships with people who do not speak English.

The training demonstrates how to communicate effectively when speaking to an audience, having one-on-one conversations, interacting with small groups, and engaging in conversations while moving about during an event. The training shows how to avoid common mistakes made when working with an interpreter, such as being afraid to engage in conversation, speaking at length, and looking at the interpreter rather than the person with whom you are trying to communicate. "These are things people naturally tend to do, but they prevent effective communication," explains Dave Cotlove, one of the co-developers of the training. "And these are not things we instinctively figure out. But once people take this training, everyone says 'Ah ha! Now I get it!'"

The training can be completed in about 30 minutes. Courtney Searls-Ridge, a professional interpreter and co-developer of the training, says "It only takes a small investment of time to take this training. But the payoff is big – you will be able to comfortably and confidently communicate with people from all over the world."