

Know & Understand Your Rights

A resource provided by ITAA & M&N Language Services



Your child's school is obligated to communicate with you in a language you understand and should provide effective interpretation and translation at no cost to you!



A parent, guardian, or caregiver's capacity to engage with the school system in English should not be subject to the discretion of school personnel or administration. Moreover, parents, guardians, and caregivers should not be made to feel obligated to accept services and communications exclusively in English, nor should they perceive themselves as imposing a systemic burden when requesting services or correspondence in their primary language and/or the language in which they are most comfortable. These language preferences should be established at the earliest opportunity, and the school should proactively ensure it possesses the capability to consistently provide such levels of language access, avoiding last-minute or reactive measures.

My parents care about my education!



Examples of Documents that should be provided in the language of choice



Bilingual
≠
Qualified



It's crucial to highlight that merely using translation software, such as Google Translator, for the aforementioned documents is inadequate. Mistranslations and the absence of cultural nuance and variation can lead to adverse consequences for a student's academic trajectory and the services they receive.

Fluency in two languages alone does not automatically confer the qualifications needed for interpreting conversations or translating documents, particularly within an educational context. These tasks demand expertise in specialized terminology, language localization, and thorough training in the responsibilities, ethics, and confidentiality associated with interpreting and translating.

Schools should ensure the provision of a highly qualified interpreter or translator, avoiding the practice of enlisting a student or an untrained staff member to facilitate conversations. This practice reduces the influence of conflicts of interest, both implicit and explicit biases, and helps to uphold impartiality and neutrality.



Don't hesitate to
express your needs!

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Remember that you are not obligated
to accept any interpreter provided.
You can request an interpreter's
credentials and/or qualifications
at any time.



Be Empowered! Below are some [resources](#) for families provided by the [National Association of Educational Translators and Interpreters of Spoken Languages](#) available in over 12 languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Haitian Creole, Hindi, Japanese, Karen, Marshallese, Portuguese, Punjabi, Russian, Spanish, Tagalog, and Vietnamese)

- [Interpreters' Code of Ethics: What to Expect From Your Professional Interpreter](#)
- [Useful Phrases to Clarify Information During a Meeting with an Interpreter](#)
- [Interpreter Feedback Form: Share Your Experience](#)
- [Child Interpreters and Translators: Is it right or wrong for our children to "translate" for us?](#)

ADDITIONAL RESOURCE:

- [Schools' Civil Rights Obligations to English Learner Students and Limited English Proficient Parents](#) (available in multiple languages)

