

IDEAL Technical Assistance

Use of an Interpreter

Why Would a Bilingual Evaluation be Needed?

- It is a federal mandate within IDEA that every child has a culturally and linguistically appropriate educational evaluation in the language(s) of the child from birth through high school exit.
- Provides a bridge to appropriate recommendations and paints a complete picture of the child.

What qualifications are required of a Bilingual Evaluator?

- Knowledge and training on multilingual language development, including the impact of culture.
- Fluent in both languages; if not, able to use interpreter ethically and appropriately.
- Incorporate quality informed clinical judgment to determine child's functional levels.
- Incorporates variety of methods to obtain information beyond exclusively translating formal tests designed for English.
- Understands testing statistics; considers reliability, validity, and bias in evaluation materials.

- <https://www.leadersproject.org/>
- <https://www.asha.org/advocacy/idea/idea-part-b-issue-brief-culturally-and-linguistically-diverse-students/>
- https://www.asha.org/practice-portal/professional-issues/bilingual-service-delivery/#collapse_1
- Professional Guidelines for Interpreting in Educational Settings, First Edition, January 2019, National Association of Interpreters In Education, NAIE



What Should the Evaluator Ensure the Interpreter Knows/Has?

- Appropriate certification for the language being interpreted.
- Overview of assessment purpose, session, and activities.
- Formal assessment processes to maintain validity.
- Flexibility in positioning to allow for optimal visual and auditory access
- Additional factors that may impact assessment.
- Importance of the following:
 - Technical terms
 - Precise translation
 - Cross-cultural perspectives
 - Limiting non-verbal cues
 - Taking notes