

INTERPRETERS FOR HEARING-IMPAIRED PARENTS

Pursuant to Section 3230 of the Education Law, all School Boards and BOCES must adopt a policy ensuring that parents or those in parental relationships who are hearing-impaired can request an interpreter to participate in school-initiated meetings and activities pertaining to the academic and/or disciplinary aspects of their child's education. The Commissioner was required to adopt a regulation implementing the law and defining the types of meetings and activities to be included. Covered meetings or activities include, but are not limited to, parent-teacher conferences, child study or building level team meetings, planning meetings with school counselors regarding educational progress and career planning, suspension hearings or any conference with school officials relating to disciplinary actions. Under the law, School Districts must provide, free of charge, an interpreter for the hearing impaired if a written request for such has been submitted within a reasonable period of time prior to the scheduled meeting or activity. If an interpreter is unavailable, the District must then make other 'reasonable accommodations' which are 'satisfactory to the parents or guardians'. As required by law, the Board's policy must include:

- a reasonable time limitation for requesting interpreter services. This will vary depending on the availability of such services in your area;
- examples of what constitute reasonable accommodation. This may include use of written communication, transcripts, or technological devices such as decoders or a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD); and
- specific provisions outlining how the District will implement the regulations of the Commissioner.

References:

Education Law §3230

8 NYCRR 100.2(aa)

Rothschild v. Grottenthaler, 907 F2d 286 (2nd Cir., 1990)

Adopted: August 21, 2001