

1- Who currently holds the contract for those services?

The School Board previously approved the following vendors for 2007-08:

Accessible Communication for the Deaf, Inc.
Accommodating Ideas, Inc.
Carmazzi of Florida, Inc.
CODA Link, Inc.
Deaf Services Bureau, Inc.
Florida Realtime Reporting Services, Inc.
Innovative Communication Services for the Deaf, Inc.
Nationwide Interpreter Resource, Inc.

2- How many interpreters on average are needed per day and the length of time they are needed for?

For daily classroom coverage, the average request is for 2 – 3 contract interpreters. The assignments, depending on the request from a school site, may be part time or full time (bell-to-bell school schedule). Other requests for meetings, parent-teacher conferences, etc. and may average 2-3 hours only. Requests for interpreters for special events (field trips, etc.) vary according to the timeframe of the event.

- Extension of time to complete RFP (from April 15 to April 22, 2008)
 - Many documents needed from each associate to be assigned.

Response from Dr. Finley: Procurement has extended the date to April 22, 2008.

- Will Interpreters be able to submit their availability to more than one agency?
 - Agencies in South Florida subcontract (not employ) Sign Language Interpreters.
Making some interpreters available for multiple agencies.

Response from Dr. Finley: This is a decision each vendor has to make. The Evaluation Committee will review its impact in terms of the ability for each vendor to commit to the level of services they indicate in their proposal they are able to provide. When requests for interpreter services are made, the district needs to feel confident the vendor is able to provide the service.

- Which "Spanish Sign Language" is there a need for?
 - "Country" Sign Language or does the RFP mean Interpreters that can function in "Trilingual - Including Spanish" environments.

Response from Dr. Finley: Not sure what or where the word "Country" is used in the RFP. There is no problem if an interpreter can provide services in American Sign Language, Spanish Sign Language, Haitian Creole Sign Language or other. The primary language of instruction for students is American Sign Language (ASL).

- Minimum Requirements (Page 5)

- Currently it doesn't list NIC (RID+NAD's newest National Certification). Can this be added to the RFP.

Response from Dr. Finley: The district will accept any approved profession credential. The level of credential must be approved by the district (i.e., QA 2 or 3). Interpreters with QA Level 1 have not been previously accepted to interpret in educational settings (per the recommendation of the Florida Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf).

- Verification Log Appended

- As a current provider for Miami-Dade County Public Schools -- the current Verification Log has "Request Number " instead of "Comments" are we retracting to use the "Comments" one? Please update Verification Log

Response from Dr. Finley: The verification log will be updated and possibly include other changes next year.

- It seems as if we have to submit a list of Interpreters Associated to ICSDeaf-- what will happen if the awarded agency wants to add other associates down the road? Will this be permitted?

Response from Dr. Finley: A vendor may subcontract with additional interpreters but must comply with all contractual policies and procedures (i.e., fingerprinting, required credential) prior to assigning them for coverage in M-DCPS school sites or other designated facilities.