



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



TO: Superintendents of Schools
Directors of Endowed and Incorporated Academies
Directors of Approved Private Special Education Facilities
Directors of Regional Educational Service Centers
Directors of Public Charter and Magnet Schools
Personnel and Human Resource Directors

FROM: Nancy L. Pugliese, J.D., Chief
Bureau of Educator Standards and Certification

DATE: April 20, 2016

SUBJECT: Qualifications for Instructors of American Sign Language (ASL) for World Language High School Credit

In 2011, the Connecticut General Assembly passed an amendment to the Connecticut General Statutes, Section 10-16b, permitting local and regional boards of education to offer American Sign Language (ASL) to meet the requirements in world language high school credit. The law also permits local and regional boards of education to employ non-certified instructors of ASL provided that:

- the ASL course is taught by a qualified instructor; and
- the instructor is under the supervision of a teacher who holds a valid certificate.

Section 10-16b Prescribed courses of study. (a) In the public schools the program of instruction offered shall include at least the following subject matter, as taught by legally qualified teachers: the arts; career education; consumer education; health and safety, including, but not limited to, human growth and development, nutrition, first aid, disease prevention, community and consumer health, physical, mental and emotional health, including youth suicide prevention, substance abuse prevention, safety, which may include the dangers of gang membership, and accident prevention; language arts, including reading, writing, grammar, speaking and spelling; mathematics; physical education; science; social studies, including, but not limited to, citizenship, economics, geography, government and history; and, in addition, on at least the secondary level, one or more world languages and vocational education. For purposes of this subsection, world languages may include American Sign Language or signed English, provided such subject matter is taught by a qualified instructor under the supervision of a teacher who holds a certificate issued by the State Board of Education. For purposes of this subsection, the "arts" means any form of visual or performing arts, which may include, but not be limited to, dance, music, art and theatre.

In the spring of 2015, the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE), in collaboration with the Connecticut ASL stakeholder group, reached consensus to adopt the Praxis Assessment of Signed Communication - American Sign Language (Praxis-ASL) to determine qualification for non-certified instructors. In the fall of 2015, Educational Testing Service (ETS) informed the CSDE that the Praxis-ASL test would be discontinued and replaced with the Praxis American Sign Language Proficiency Interview (ASLPI), developed by Gallaudet and administered by ETS. Further information about the ASLPI is available at <https://www.ets.org/praxis/wv/aslpi/>.

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The ASL stakeholder group re-convened in fall 2015 to review the assessment and determine a cut score for the ASLPI in Connecticut. Gallaudet's national recommended cut score is 3⁺. The Connecticut stakeholder group also recommended 3⁺ as the Connecticut cut score, in line with the national recommendation. The ASL stakeholder group will convene again in 2017 to review test data from the previous two years.

The table below provides information about this test requirement and who is required to pass the ASLPI in order to be qualified to teach ASL as a world language:

ASLPI (Cut Score 3+) Requirement	
Certification Held	ASLPI (Cut Score 3+) Required
No certificate	Yes
Holds 057 or 024 certificate	No
Holds any other teaching certificate	Yes

Certification candidates and prospective instructors may register for the Praxis ASLPI through the ETS Praxis website at: <https://www.ets.org/praxis/wv/aslpi/>

If you have any questions, please contact Amanda Turner at 860-713-6737 or email her at amanda.turner@ct.gov.

Thank you for your attention to this important information.

NLP:at

cc: Sarah J. Barzee, Ph.D., Chief Talent Officer, CSDE Talent Office
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