

FAQ about changes in certification system

Q: Is there a new certification test Missouri will be using?

A: Yes, the Board for Certification of Interpreters (BCI) and the Missouri Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (MCDHH) has decided to lease the interpreter certification test that was developed by the Texas Board for Evaluation of Interpreters (BEI). This test has been proven valid, reliable, and legally defensible.

Q: When does the new test and all of the corresponding rules take effect?

A: The new rules will go into effect September 30, 2014.

Q: What does the new test look like?

A: Any person applying for certification with the new exam must pass both a written and performance test, regardless of whether you have passed another written test prior to the BEI. The written test of English proficiency (TEP) tests a candidate's English skills. When the TEP has been passed, an interpreter is eligible to take a performance test. Each of the three levels of certification has its own performance test. If you pass that level's certification test, you become certified at that level. More information on the BEI written and performance tests can be found at http://www.dars.state.tx.us/dhhs/library/bei_study_guide.pdf

Q: What if I already have MICS certification?

A: An interpreter who already holds MICS certification before the new rules take effect September 30, 2014 will automatically be converted to the new certification levels if they hold permanent certification (Comprehensive, Advanced, Intermediate, or RCED). The Comprehensive will be called Master, Advanced remains the same, Intermediate will be called Basic, and RCED will

remain the same. An interpreter will be able to work in the same settings as they do currently according to the skill level standards.

Temporary certifications may be kept until those certifications expire, 3 years from the date it was issued for Apprentice and Novice certification. PCED's expire either 1 year or 3 years from the date of issue.

Q: Are there new rules for how many CEUs we must earn annually?

A: Yes, there will be an increase in the number of CEUs required to earn for the next year's CEU cycle. That will not go into effect until the November 3, 2014-November 2, 2015 cycle. The increase will go to 2.0 (20 contact hours) annually.

Q: Are all interpreters required to take the new test?

A: No, all new applicants and any interpreter who wants to test to obtain a higher level of certification will be required to take both the written TEP and performance exam.

Q: Do you have to have a minimum of an associate's degree to take the BEI?

A: New applicants or any interpreter whose certification has expired or lapsed must meet the educational requirements before applying for the exams. To be eligible for the written TEP, a person must have 30 hours of credit from an accredited institution. To be eligible for the performance test, a person must have an associate's degree or 60 hours of credit from an accredited institution. If you hold valid MICS certification (Master, Advanced, Basic, Apprentice, Novice, or RCED), you are not required to meet the educational requirements.

Q: Will the testing fees be increasing?

A: The written test fee will remain at \$25. The fees for the performance tests will increase due to the increased costs associated with administering and scoring the new test. The Basic test will increase to \$275, while the Advanced and Master will increase to \$300 each.