

RID Credentialing Moratorium and Minnesota K-12 Educational Interpreters: An Informal Interview with Mary Cashman-Bakken B.A., M.A., J.D.

The RID credentialing moratorium has been a hot topic this year, and we have heard many questions floating around in our community. The MRID Educational Interpreters' Committee had brought your questions to Mary Cashman-Bakken at the Minnesota Department of Education. Read her answers below to gain insight as to how the certification testing changes will impact MN educational interpreters. If you would like to learn more about the RID credentialing moratorium, you can [click here](#) and watch [this vlog](#) for the latest update.

1. Will there be any change to the way school districts apply for, supply support to (mentoring), and stay in compliance with pre-certified interpreters? Will provisional licenses still be used the same way as before?

Mentoring will continue for pre-certified interpreters. Please [see the memo](#). There is no provisional license- a provisional certificate will still be issued by MDE and is good for two years from the date of graduation from an ITP.

2. What about interpreters that already made an extension before the moratorium? If their extension expires and the moratorium is still going on, is there anything they can do?

Those who have an extension and it is close to expiring will have the opportunity to re- open their extension. They will need to show test results from EIPA and have the opportunity to explain why they have not passed, explain what they are studying and what their plans are to meet standards set for Minnesota.

3. What if an interpreter recently received denial of their request to extend their provisional, will MDE now reconsider, due to the moratorium?

MDE does not extend provisional certificates but we will review and possibly extend extensions.

4. If an interpreter earns a 4.0 or higher on the EIPA (which technically is considered certified), but since RID isn't recognizing any new certifications during the moratorium does that interpreter still need to continue mentoring? Or are they considered certified in the eyes of the state?

No, once you have received certification mentoring is no longer needed. The reason we wanted Interpreters to be registered with RID is so that they would be required to keep earning CMP's or learning new things. We are waiting to see what RID will do and will make changes once we know more but are trying to make as few changes as we can until we know more.

5. Are there any special things they should write or do for their extension paperwork? Should they be requesting longer amounts of time bc of the moratorium?

The concentration should be on developing interpreting skills. Interpreters have 2 years after their program ends, with mentoring, then an extension, how long does it take? I think the moratorium will give interpreters who had 3-4 years to master something now 5-6 years. Sometimes more time does not help but can hinder. I think the more you can show the extension team the integrity of your plan the better.

6. Should pre-certified educational interpreters be focusing on the EIPA test for now? Any other test like the BEI? Or just wait for the future/new test to come out?

At this time in Minnesota the only test is the EIPA. I suggest focusing on that.

[*NOTE: RID has announced the moratorium for the NIC will be lifted July 1, 2016. They will start accepting registrations on July 1st and scheduling will begin soon after.]

7. Now that RID has stopped recognizing all new certifications during the moratorium, does that mean pre-certified interpreters' skill development and mentoring can be put on hold until a new test comes out?

No, mentoring and the interpreting process outlined Minnesota Stat.122 A.31 will continue. A memo came out in 2008 recognizing EIPA after NAD folded into RID. We are waiting to see what RID will do.

8. Anything else Minnesota pre-certified educational interpreters should consider?

Mary Cashman-Bakken (MDE) I am starting a data base just for interpreters. Please let Mary know your school contact information district, region, address and school email, home address and home email. Please mail in your certifications – in checking RID we have found many are not on the list of certified interpreters.

The best way for you and interpreters to reach me is by email! Thanks again for your questions.

Mary Cashman-Bakken B.A., M.A., J.D.

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*This response is meant to be advisory only and does not represent a written, official position or endorsement of the Minnesota Department of Education.



Mary Cashman-Bakken has a J. D. from William Mitchell College of Law, St. Paul, MN, a M. A. in Deaf Education from Gallaudet University, Washington D.C. and a B. A. in Education from St. Benedict's College, St. Joseph's MN. She has been in field of Deaf Education for over 30 years! She has worked for the Minnesota Department of Education as the State Specialist for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing for over 20 years. She was an itinerant teacher of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing before that. She is a collaborative member on numerous boards and workgroups focusing on how to improve education for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students Birth to 21 in Minnesota. Mary is Deaf herself and has two Deaf siblings. She is married and has two daughters.

