

Court Interpreters Advisory Panel (CIAP) Meeting

December 13, 2023



Item 2: Credentialing Options

- Language Access Services (LAS) contracted with the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) to conduct research on credentialing options
- Goal was to identify potential options or strategies for California (CA) that may increase the court interpreter pool

Bilingual Interpreting Examination (BIE)

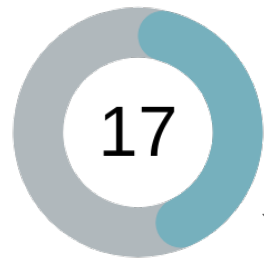
- Required for certified languages
- In CA, candidates must
 - Pass all four sections of the BIE with a score of 70% or higher on each section
 - Pass all four sections in one sitting

NCSC Research

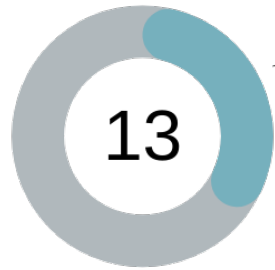
- Reviewed court interpreter testing programs used in other states
- Reviewed CA court interpreter testing data for certified languages
- Conducted review of publicly available information for 36 states using NCSC Written and Oral Exams
- Conducted telephone interviews with states to review test administration processes in more detail

Research Findings

Of 36 states that use
NCSC court interpreter
exams...



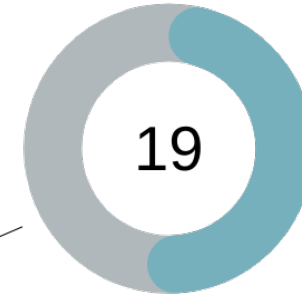
Average sight
translation scores



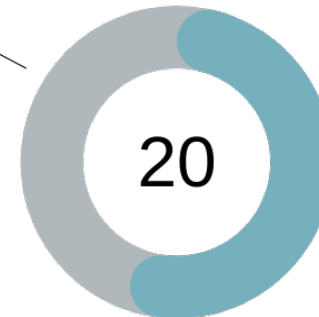
Require candidates to
take and pass all exam
parts in one sitting



Use a simultaneous
screener



Use tiered classifications



Permit carry-over
scores

Analysis

CIAP members have been resistant to tiered classifications for certified spoken language interpreters

Members expressed support for the use of carryover scores, a practice which aligns with current near-passer training efforts

Recommendations

- Make no change at this time to the current testing requirement that candidates must pass the BIE with a score of 70% or higher in each of the four examination sections in one sitting
- Create a new annual agenda project for 2024 for LAS staff to explore the feasibility of carryover scores, including potential costs, benefits, drawbacks, and operational feasibility

Next steps / Discussion

- If these recommendations are approved by CIAP:
 - Staff will work on feasibility of carryover scores as a new 2024 Annual Agenda project
 - Staff will then return to CIAP with recommendations

Item 3: Designation of Languages

- The *2020 Language Need and Interpreter Use Study* recommended:
 - Monitor the usage of Hmong for possible future designation as a certified language
 - CIAP to review other languages to see if any should be reclassified as registered

15 Certified Spoken Languages

Arabic (Egyptian/ Levantine)	Armenian (Eastern)	Armenian (Western)*	Cantonese	Farsi (Persian)
Filipino (Tagalog)	Japanese*	Khmer	Korean	Mandarin
Portuguese	Punjabi (India)	Russian	Spanish	Vietnamese

* Examination not available for these languages

Analysis

- For the BIE, CA uses its own exams and NCSC's bank of exams
- No exam available for Armenian (Western) and Japanese
- CA has not been able to test for Khmer due to a lack of exam raters

Recommendations

- Make no change to Portuguese (certified) or Hmong (registered)
- Change the designation of the following languages from certified to registered:
 - Japanese
 - Khmer
 - Armenian (Western)

Benefits

- Persons who want to become interpreters in these languages will now have a pathway
- Will expand the pool of interpreters
- Benefits to litigants
- Program will not have to create CA-only examinations for these languages

Next steps / Discussion

- If these recommendations are approved by CIAP:
 - Staff will prepare and circulate a proposal for public comment
 - Staff will then develop a council report for CIAP approval on designation of languages