 

# **Questions and Answers: FC 0199 Interpreters in the Education Setting**

1. **How does DESE define “primary job responsibility” for interpretation when considering candidates for grandfathering into Tier 2 or Tier 3? Beyond a superintendent/designee letter, is any additional documentation required? What is the approval process, and what criteria are used to make the determination?**

Individuals cannot be “grandfathered” into Tier 2 or Tier 3, they must successfully complete the training.

1. **Is completion of Tier 2 always required before enrolling in Tier 3, or can qualified individuals with extensive experience move directly into Tier 3?**

Successful completion of Tier 2 is always required before enrolling in Tier 3. Individuals with extensive experience may be allowed to skip certain modules of the course which review basic interpretation standards, this is allowed at the instructor’s discretion.

1. **If direct entry is allowed, what documentation or process is needed for approval?**

Direct entry to Tier 3 is not allowed.

1. **Is the train-the-trainer content embedded within Tier 3, or is it a separate course/process?**

The train-the-trainer content is a separate process. A district that would like to become an Approved Provider may apply through CommBuys: [COMMBUYS - Bid Solicitation](https://www.commbuys.com/bso/external/bidDetail.sdo?docId=BD-24-1026-DOE02-DOE01-89929).

1. **If separate, what are the perquisites and timeline for an individual to become approved to deliver Tier 3 training in-district?**

Please review all materials available on the bid solicitation: [COMMBUYS - Bid Solicitation](https://www.commbuys.com/bso/external/bidDetail.sdo?docId=BD-24-1026-DOE02-DOE01-89929).

1. **Will DESE be offering any office hours, Q & A sessions, or other opportunities to discuss questions with grant applications before the submission deadline?**

All questions will be answered through this document.

1. **If we want to engage in Actvity 3, how can we plan for it if no vendors have been approved yet through CommBuys? What are districts expected to do in the meantime? What exactly are stipend for in this case, if there is no approved provider? Will DESE provide a timeline for when the list of approved providers for Activity 3 will be available?**

There is an Approved Provider list available on DESE’s [website](https://www.doe.mass.edu/language-access/interpreters/default.html). The grant will provide funding for districts to have individuals trained through one of these providers. Activity 3 provides funds for a district that intends to apply to become an Approved Provider. If accepted, the district will have a qualified instructor take the provided instructor training course and receive a stipend to deliver the training to district personnel.

1. **What qualifies as proof of bilingual proficiency or Tier 2 entry? Is staff need to take an oral language proficiency test, what assessments are accepetable?**

Please review the guidance document provided on the [website](https://www.doe.mass.edu/language-access/interpreters/default.html) for a full list of evidence of language proficiency and qualifying scores for assessments.

1. **If testing is required, can the cost of the assessment be covered by grant funds?**

Yes, funding can be used for assessments if the assessment is offered by the Approved Provider directly.