

## Sign language proficiency requirements for applicants seeking an American Sign Language or Deaf and Hard of Hearing teaching license

In Minnesota, an applicant for a license to teach Deaf and Hard of Hearing (D/HH) or American Sign Language (ASL) must demonstrate proficiency in American Sign Language.<sup>i</sup> Applicants can demonstrate proficiency by taking one of two examinations:

- **The Sign Language Proficiency Interview (SLPI)<sup>ii</sup>**

The SLPI is administered several times a year by the Minnesota State Academy for the Deaf (MSAD). More information on registering for the SLPI can be found on the MSAD website:

<https://www.msa.state.mn.us/1/Department/32>

- **The American Sign Language Proficiency Interview (ASLPI)<sup>iii</sup>**

The ASLPI is administered by the University of Gallaudet. More information about registering for the ASLPI can be found on the university's website: <https://www.gallaudet.edu/the-american-sign-language-proficiency-interview/aslpi>

For Tier 2, 3, and 4 ASL or D/HH licensure applicants, individuals must demonstrate a proficiency level of “intermediate plus” on the SLPI or “3+” on the ASLPI **prior to applying for the license**. Applicants should include a copy of their proficiency rating with their application.

For Tier 1 ASL initial licensure renewals, candidates must attempt either the SLPI or ASLPI prior to renewing their license for the first time. For Tier 1 D/HH initial licensure renewals, applicants can either choose to attempt the SLPI/ASLPI examinations or the Minnesota Teacher Licensure Exams (MTLEs) in [Special Education: Core Skills](#) before renewing their Tier 1 license for the first time. Applicants should include a copy of their proficiency rating with their application.

D/HH licensure applicants who have not yet taken, or not yet passed, a proficiency interview may qualify for an Oral/Aural teaching license. Applicants must either demonstrate six credits in ASL or a “survival” rating on the SLPI.<sup>iv</sup> There is currently no option to use the ASLPI to meet requirements for an Oral/Aural license.

Additional testing requirements may be required based on the licensure tier the applicant is seeking. More information about testing requirements can be found within PELSB's testing documents:

- [Minnesota Teacher Licensure Testing Information](#)
- [Minnesota Special Education Teacher Licensure Testing Information](#)

If you have questions regarding the sign language proficiency exams, please contact PELSB at [pelsb@state.mn.us](mailto:pelsb@state.mn.us).

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<sup>i</sup> Minn. Stat. 122A.28; Minn. R. 8710.5200, subp. 2 (E) (D/HH Licensure) and 8710.4950, subp. 5 (A) (ASL Licensure).

<sup>ii</sup> Minn. R. 8710.5200, subp. 2 (E).

<sup>iii</sup> [PELSB Resolution 2020.12](#) (adopted December 11, 2020).

<sup>iv</sup> Minn. R. 8710.5250 (Oral/Aural Licensure).