



AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

2021 - 2025 Officers

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The American Sign Language Teacher Association (ASLTA) was notified of a job posting at your high school/college/university for an ASL instructor/teacher that lists inadequate credentials required to teach American Sign Language (ASL) courses. The job posting does not reflect the best hiring practices as established by the American Sign Language Teacher Association.

The following minimum qualifications should be considered when hiring an ASL instructor (as stated in ASLTA Guidelines for Hiring ASL Teachers):

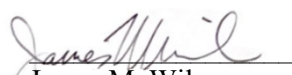
- Obtain a degree in ASL and/or Deaf Studies from an accredited college/university
- Obtain a certification from the American Sign Language Teacher Association (ASLTA) or state-level required certificate/license (or both)
- Maintain membership with National ASLTA
- Regularly attend professional development that pertains to teaching ASL and/or Deaf Studies
- Documented evidence of fluency in ASL
 - Examples: ASLPI rating of 3+ or SLPI: ASL rating of Advanced, or passing a state-level performance exam
- Know/Use ASL for more than five years

The following qualifications do not pertain to the teaching of ASL:

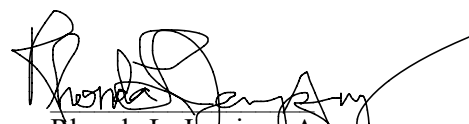
- Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) certifications - Teaching and interpreting ASL are not synonymous. Each requires a unique skill set. Interpreters are certified in facilitating communication between two people with dissimilar languages and are not trained in pedagogical theory, curriculum development/implementation, and classroom management.
- Deaf Education certifications - Teaching ASL and teaching Deaf students are not synonymous. Each requires a unique skill set. Teachers of the Deaf (TODs) are certified/qualified in teaching Deaf children core content, not American Sign Language.
- Ability to communicate verbally - ASL and English are two separate languages. American Sign Language is a visual-gestural language that does not include a spoken component. Qualified ASL teachers do not and will not require spoken English to teach ASL.

Job openings may be posted on the ASLTA website to recruit qualified applicants. If there are any concerns or issues posting a job, you may contact the ASLTA Communications Director (communications@aslta.org). We would welcome you to contact us at any time for further information and guidance.

Thank you,
ASLTA
American Sign Language Teachers Association
PO Box 92445
Rochester, NY 14692-9998



James M. Wilson
President



Rhonda L. Jennings-Arey
Secretary