

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
P.O. BOX 2120
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23218-2120

SUPTS. MEMO NO. 229

October 26, 2007

INFORMATIONAL

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: Billy K. Cannaday, Jr.
Superintendent of Public Instruction

SUBJECT: Approval of the Sign Communication
Proficiency Interview (SCPI) Assessment as
an Option of Demonstrating Proficiency in
American Sign Language

At their meeting on October 18, 2007, the Board of Education approved the use of the Sign Communication Proficiency Interview (SCPI) Assessment as an option for demonstrating proficiency in American Sign Language. The *Licensure Regulations for School Personnel*, effective September 21, 2007, give individuals seeking an endorsement in American Sign Language the option of meeting requirements by passing an assessment demonstrating proficiency in American Sign Language prescribed by the Board. Individuals also would be required to meet other licensure requirements including professional studies and assessment requirements.

The SCPI is a conversational approach to sign language communications skill assessment. The SCPI permits interview content to vary according to the job responsibilities, background, and interests of each person interviewed. The goal of the SCPI is to assess how well people are able to use sign language for their communication needs, and, as appropriate, to assist people in development of their sign language communication skills.

The SCPI involves a one-to-one conversation between the interviewer and candidate/interviewee, with each interviewee videotaped and subsequently rated independently by SCPI raters. The basis for ratings is the SCPI Rating Scale, a standard scale based on a highly skilled, knowledgeable native/native-like signer. The SCPI

assesses American Sign Language as it is used among skilled sign language communicators in the United States. This use includes the full range of ASL from pure, linguistic descriptions of ASL to English influenced signing.

The Board of Education approved the SCPI with a proficiency level of "advanced." The SCPI assessment is offered at the Virginia School for the Deaf and Blind at Staunton and the Virginia School for the Deaf, Blind, and Multi-Disabled at Hampton.

If you have questions regarding the SCPI, please contact Mrs. Patty S. Pitts, assistant superintendent for teacher education and licensure, patty.pitts@doe.virginia.gov at (804) 371-2522 or Dr. James W. Lanham, director of licensure, james.lanham@doe.virginia.gov at (804) 371-2471.

BK CJr/jwl

