

# **Sight Translation of State Assessments**

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CCSSO National Conference on Student  
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Orlando, FL  
June 18, 2007**

# What is sight translation and how is it different from other modes of interpreting and other forms of assessment in the native language?

- Oral translation of written text
- Not consecutive or simultaneous
- Not written or standardized

# Who typically performs sight translation?

- Interpreters

# When is a sight translation an appropriate accommodation?

- When the number of students doesn't justify written translation
- When students are not literate in their native language
- When it does not change the construct

# How can a district or state determine if a sight or a written translation is appropriate?

- Home language survey
- Ethnologue
- Wikipedia

# In what content areas have states provided sight translations?

- Any except ELA.
- States allowing sight translation in 2006-07
- AL, DE, KY, MI, MN, MO, NM, NY, PA, TX, UT, WI, WY.

# Are there assessments for which sight translation is inappropriate?

- 2006-07 States that Specify the Components for which Sight Translation is Prohibited

Accommodation	States		
	Math	Reading	Writing
Test items translated orally into native language	5 (AL, AZ, CT, ID, MN)	11 (AL, AZ, CT, ID, MN, MO, OH, OK, PA, UT, WI)	8 (AL, AZ, CT, ID, MN, MO, PA, WI)

# How can one find certified interpreters to carry out the sight translation of an assessment?

- Administrative Office the US Courts - Spanish
- National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators-Spanish
- National Center for State Courts- 14 languages. Arabic, Cantonese, French, Haitian Creole, Hmong, Korean, Laotian, Mandarin, Portuguese, Russian, Serbian, Somali, Spanish, and Vietnamese
- Medical interpreters - CA and WA certify.
- ATA- 15 languages. , Chinese, Croatian, Danish, Dutch, Finnish, French, German, Hungarian, Italian, Japanese, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, and Spanish
- 25 languages vs. 100

# How can districts and states identify appropriate individuals to perform sight translations?

- Search interpreter association websites.
- Call companies providing interpreter services.
- Call ethnic organizations

# What kinds of individuals should be recruited to perform sight translations?

- People who are highly literate in both languages. Know student's native culture or region.
- Familiar with US education system.
- Districts should collect info on the interpreters' background and present it to the state.
- Do not use children.

# What information should districts or states provide to the interpreter before the test administration to ensure validity and reliability?

- Come in the day before to prepare for the administration.
- Read the directions for administration, answer documents, and the test items.
- Access to these only in a secure setting.
- Glossaries (NY, NYC, ME, TX-Austin) 18 languages
- Meet with school assessment coordinator

# Scripted or Recorded oral translation

- Ensures consistency and comparability
- Recorded helps maintain test security
- Can save money

# What states use recorded oral translation?

- Ohio (Spanish, Japanese, Somali, Russian, Arabic)
- Michigan (Spanish and Arabic)
- Wisconsin (Spanish and Hmong)
- Oklahoma allows districts to make a CD

# Conclusion

- Recorded oral translation is better than sight translation, since it provides for standardized administration, reduces costs, and is not a threat to security.