

Tips For Parents Using an Interpreter

1. Set aside extra time for meetings or events with an interpreter. Communicating with an interpreter often takes extra time.
2. When speaking, look directly at the person you are meeting with. Do not look at the interpreter. This allows the other person to see any gestures you make. This can help them understand you better.
3. The interpreter is there to help you communicate with the school.
4. It may seem like the interpreter is ignoring you or that they are serious. It may be that they are focusing on helping everyone understand each other.
5. Interpreters must respect the privacy of families. They are not allowed to tell others about what families share with schools.
6. Try speaking in one or two short sentences at a time. It is important to focus on sharing a complete thought. Then, pause to give the interpreter time to share what is said.
7. The interpreter may raise their hand or give a different signal. This means they need you or someone else to pause.
8. If something is unclear, the interpreter may ask you to repeat yourself.
9. It is important to note that sometimes, cultural interpretations may not be understood completely, such as hand gestures or colloquial phrases.

These resources aim to bolster academic, student wellness, and college and career outcomes for Ohio's multilingual learners. Resources were created through a collaborative effort between the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce and The Ohio State University's Center on Education and Training for Employment along with a dedicated group of family advocates, community leaders, school district personnel, and teachers.