

FY 2007 QUESTION NUMBER: 44

QUESTION:

How do we meet the diverse translation needs of parents in local schools? Do we keep an inventory of bilingual staff in the schools?

BUDGET PAGE REFERENCE: 3–83

ANSWER:

Interpretation services, described as oral or spoken translations between languages, and translation services, described as written translation of text between languages, are available to schools. Schools can request interpretation and translation services from the Division of ESOL/Bilingual Programs in the specific language(s) needed. Schools also can use *Language Line* Services to provide telephone interpretation services with non- or limited-English speaking parents and/or the voicemail message lines for parents to leave messages in their language(s) and receive a return call in that language.

Principals in Montgomery County Public Schools are aware of the varied abilities that each staff member brings to the task of meeting needs in each school, including bilingual staff who may assist with communication to members of the school community whose primary language is not English. There is, however, no central inventory kept of the language(s) spoken by each staff member assigned to individual schools. This question is not a part of the employment record for supporting services and is self-reported for certified staff, which means it is an optional component of the employment record.