

Office of the Superintendent of Schools
MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Rockville, Maryland

August 7, 2019

MEMORANDUM

To: Member of the Board of Education
From: Jack R. Smith, Superintendent of Schools
Subject: Headsets for Language Interpretation (07-11-19-05)

During the discussion of item 4291.3 - Interpreting Services for Deaf Hard of Hearing Individuals—Extension noted on page 3 of the attachment for Consent item 9.1 – Procurement Contracts of \$25,000 or More, Mrs. Smondrowski requested additional information regarding the cost for the headsets for language interpretation:

Question

How do we determine which schools receive headsets for use during meetings, events, etc.?

Response

We no longer provide interpretation equipment to schools. That service was discontinued at the beginning of the 2017 school year.

Question

How many overall headsets do we have in stock?

Response

Currently we own approximately 30 headsets per language (Amharic, Chinese, Korean, French, Spanish, and Vietnamese). These headsets only are used for districtwide events.

Question

Is there an even distribution of the devices?

Response

That service was discontinued at the beginning of the 2017 school year. The following message was provided to all principals at the beginning of Fiscal Year 2017:

Access to Interpretation Equipment

The Language Assistance Services Unit (LASU) has a limited quantity of interpretation equipment available for school use. In order to prevent interruption of this service, LASU is making available to all schools information on where to purchase interpretation equipment. This will be a great project for your PTA, and owning your own equipment will guarantee its availability every time your school community needs it.

Please visit <http://www.conferencemicrophones.com/25-person-translation-system/> to purchase interpretation equipment for your school.

If staff in schools request interpretation equipment, we provide the links to updated information.

Question

Do schools have to fundraise to obtain them?

Response

We provide staff in schools with information on how to purchase equipment.

Question

How many ASL interpreters do we have on staff?

Response

In Fiscal Year 2020, Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) has the following American Sign Language interpreter staff:

American Sign Language Interpreters in MCPS	
Interpreter I positions	32.0 Full-time Equivalent (FTE)
Interpreter II positions	4.0 FTE

Question

Is the distribution of these devices based upon the ESOL population of the requesting schools?

Response

We no longer provide interpretation equipment to schools. That service was discontinued at the beginning of the 2017 school year.

If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Maria V. Navarro, chief academic officer, at 240-740-3040.

JRS:MVN:lsl

Copy to:
Executive Staff
Ms. Webb