Educational Interpreters (C255L25)

Budget Language

$41,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2026 and $33,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2027 are provided solely for implementation of Substitute Senate Bill No. 5025 (educational interpreters).

Proviso Purpose

This funding supports implementation of SSB 5025 by establishing the processes, staffing, and application system necessary to administer educational interpreter requirements in Washington State.

Services Provided

OSPI used this funding primarily to support staff responsible for implementation of SSB 5025, including development of program requirements, stakeholder engagement, policy and procedural development, and management of application processes. Funding also supported contracted services to design and build an online application system. Following adoption of implementation requirements by the Professional Educator Standards Board (PESB) in September 2026, application development began in October 2026 to support future applicant submissions and program administration.

Criteria for Receiving Services/Grants

No grants were awarded through this proviso. Funding was used for OSPI-administered implementation activities, including staffing and development of the application infrastructure necessary to administer educational interpreter requirements.

Beneficiaries in the 2025-26 School Year

Number of School Districts:	N/A
Number of Schools:	N/A
Number of Students:	N/A
Number of Educators:	N/A

Are Federal or Other Funds Contingent on State Funding?

No.

State Funding History

Fiscal Year	Amount Funded	Actual Expenditures
2026	$41,000	$28,247

Number of Beneficiaries Per Fiscal Year (e.g. School Districts, Schools, Students, Educators, Other)

Fiscal Year	Number of Beneficiaries
2026	N/A

Programmatic Changes Since Inception (If Any)

This proviso was established to support the implementation of SSB 5025. During the initial year, activities focused on program development and infrastructure creation. Following PESB approval of implementation requirements in September 2026, OSPI began development of the online application in October 2026.

Program(s) Evaluation or Major Findings

Not implemented yet.

Major Challenges Faced by Program(s)

Implementation required coordination across multiple agencies and stakeholders to establish requirements, processes, and timelines. Certification requirements were set September 2026. OSPI was provided 30 days to build the application infrastructure in the electronic Certification system while simultaneously developing business processes and implementation planning.

Future Opportunities

Future work will focus on completing and refining the application system, supporting applicants through the new process, and evaluating implementation needs as educational interpreters begin utilizing the system. Additional opportunities include streamlining application processes, improving user experience, and using data collected through the system to inform future policy and implementation decisions.

Other Relevant Information

None

Schools/Districts Receiving Assistance

Click here to see a list of all OSPI grant recipients in the 2026 Fiscal Year.

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