

## FAQ: Sign Language Interpreter Educational License – Repealed as of January 1, 2026

**REVISION ISSUED ON DECEMBER 18, 2025**

### OVERVIEW & BACKGROUND

During the 2025 Legislative Session, SB 950 (2025) was passed and signed into law by the Governor on May 28, 2025. The new law repeals the sign language interpreter (SLI) educational license, effective January 1, 2026. However, any SLI educational license issued between June 8, 2024, and December 31, 2025, will remain valid through January 1, 2029, allowing SLI educational license holders three additional years to practice.

Beginning January 1, 2026, the SLI educational license will no longer be issued or renewed due to SB 950 (2025), which repeals this license type.

The Health Licensing Office (HLO) has provided a FAQ to help understand how the current law aligns with SB 950 (2025).

### PERMANENT BOARD SLI EDUCATIONAL LICENSE

**Q1: When did HLO begin issuing permanent<sup>1</sup> Board of Sign Language Interpreters (Board) SLI educational licenses?**

**A:** HLO began issuing permanent Board SLI educational licenses on June 8, 2024.

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<sup>1</sup> To obtain a permanent Board SLI educational license a person had to apply and provide all required information, meet all qualifications, and pay application and license fees.

**Q2: When will HLO stop issuing permanent Board SLI educational licenses?**

**A:** HLO will stop issuing permanent Board SLI educational licenses on December 31, 2025.

**Q3: Does my permanent Board SLI educational license qualify me for the extension ending January 1, 2029?**

**A:** Yes. Your permanent Board SLI educational license will automatically be extended until January 1, 2029.

**Q4: Do I have to renew my permanent Board SLI educational license before December 31, 2025, to have my permanent Board SLI educational license extended until January 1, 2029?**

**A:** No. You do not have to renew your permanent Board SLI educational license to have it extended until January 1, 2029.

**Q5: Does my permanent Board SLI educational license need to be active on January 1, 2026, to have my permanent Board SLI educational license extended until January 1, 2029?**

**A:** No. Your permanent Board SLI educational license doesn't have to be active on January 1, 2026, to be extended until January 1, 2029.

**Q6: Can I renew my permanent Board SLI educational license after December 31, 2025?**

**A:** No. Starting January 1, 2026, the permanent Board SLI educational license can no longer be renewed due to SB 950 (2025) repealing the SLI educational license.

**Q7: Can I obtain a permanent Board SLI educational license after December 31, 2025?**

**A:** No. Starting January 1, 2026, permanent Board SLI educational licenses will no longer be issued due to SB 950 (2025) repealing the SLI educational license.

**Q8: If I was issued a permanent Board SLI educational license between June 8, 2024, and December 31, 2025, where can I provide sign language interpretation services as of January 1, 2026?**

**A:** From January 1, 2026, to January 1, 2029, you can provide sign language interpretation services in settings that the Board authorizes without needing extra licenses. *The Board was scheduled to adopt temporary rules on October 22, 2025, but quorum requirements to hold a public meeting could not be met. The Board is scheduled to meet on February 4, 2026, at which time the Board is expected to review and adopt temporary rules, including defining educational settings. Until the Board adopts temporary rules, individuals who were issued a SLI educational license before January 1, 2026, should work in educational settings defined under OAR 816-005-0000.*

**Q9: What if I was NOT issued a permanent<sup>2</sup> Board SLI educational license between June 8, 2024, and December 31, 2025 — do I need another license to provide sign language interpretation services in K-12 education setting?**

**A:** Yes. If you do not obtain a permanent Board SLI educational license before January 1, 2026, you will need one of the SLI licenses available on January 1, 2026, or fall under an exemption to licensure, in order to provide sign language interpretation services.

A person can apply for a permanent Board SLI supervisory, generalist or provisional license at any time before or after January 1, 2026.

Starting January 1, 2026, a person can apply for the permanent Board SLI-in-training license.

**\*\*\*Please note: Effective January 1, 2026, the Board of Sign Language Interpreters will temporary pause acceptance of all sign language interpreter license applications and**

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<sup>2</sup> To obtain a permanent Board SLI educational license a person had to apply and provide all required information, meet all qualifications, and pay application and license fees.

**license renewals until it is able to meet, adopt temporary rules, and establish a fee structure.**

**Q10: If I'm providing sign language interpretation services in K-12 schools, do I have to follow the Oregon Department of Education's rules?**

**A:** Yes, you must follow the requirements set by the Oregon Department of Education under Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) 581-015-0200.

**Q11: If I was issued a permanent Board SLI educational license in 2024 or 2025, can I get a refund or transfer the fees?**

**A:** No. Once the license has been issued and fees paid, those fees can't be refunded or transferred.

**Q12: If I renewed my permanent Board SLI educational license in 2024 or 2025, can I get a refund or transfer the fees?**

**A:** No. Once the license has been issued and fees paid, those fees can't be refunded or transferred.

## **TEMPORARY SLI EDUCATIONAL LICENSE**

**Q13: When were temporary<sup>3</sup> SLI educational licenses issued?**

**A:** Temporary SLI educational licenses were issued between January 1, 2024, and June 7, 2024, at 11:59 p.m.

**Q14: When did temporary SLI educational licenses become null and void?**

**A:** Temporary SLI educational licenses became null and void on June 7, 2024, at 11:59 p.m.

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<sup>3</sup> There were no fees required to obtain a temporary license issued from January 1, 2024, to June 7, 2024.

**Q15: Does my temporary SLI educational license qualify me for the extension ending January 1, 2029?**

**A:** No. The temporary SLI educational license does not qualify you for the extension ending January 1, 2029.

## LIMITED WAIVER ON ENFORCEMENT

**Q16: When does the limited waiver on enforcement end?**

**A:** The limited waiver on enforcement began on January 1, 2024, ends on June 30, 2026.

**Q17: If I choose to work under the limited waiver on enforcement and do not obtain a permanent Board SLI educational, medical or legal license, do I qualify for the extension ending January 1, 2029?**

**A:** No. If you choose to work under the limited waiver on enforcement and do not obtain a permanent Board SLI educational, medical or legal license, you do not qualify for the extension ending January 1, 2029.

## RESOURCES AND CONTACT INFORMATION AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

### Resource Information:

- Meeting information: <https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/HLO/Pages/Board-Sign-Language-Interpreters-Meetings.aspx>
- Meeting videos: [https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLg51XtPQ\\_i12YOz4s46gqmW-Wx521TYIi](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLg51XtPQ_i12YOz4s46gqmW-Wx521TYIi)

- Current rules and laws: <https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/HLO/Pages/Board-Sign-Language-Interpreters-Laws-Rules.aspx>
- How to receive up-to-date Board information:  
<https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/ORHA/signup/38181>

**Contact Information:**

- Licensing questions: Michael Brennan, 503-934-5009,  
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