From Child Language Broker to Certified Interpreter

The Translation & Interpretation Program at the Puget Sound Skills Center (PSSC) is a CTE (Career and Technical Education) program for high school heritage language speakers incorporating service learning.

"preparing students for college & career"
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101 languages spoken

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They also learn about how professionals produce written translation, which helps them improve their writing skills in both languages.

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Adult Interpreter or Translator Required!

Student Interpreters have been trained to recognize situations which require an adult interpreter or in which there may be a conflict of interest for the Student Interpreter. Please do not pressure our Student Interpreters to interpret if they decline an assignment or if they request to be dismissed from an assignment that is already in progress.

Student Interpreters may not interpret in situations where confidential or personal information is likely to be disclosed.

- Knowledge of sensitive information places a heavy emotional burden on young Student Interpreters. For example, they may learn things about people they know that make them feel uncomfortable. Even worse, the obligation to maintain confidentiality means they cannot talk to anyone about these feelings.

- If confidential information becomes public through other channels, the Student Interpreter may be unjustly blamed for the disclosure.

Student Interpreters may not interpret in situations which are likely to become adversarial.

- Interpreting in highly charged situations places a heavy emotional burden on young Student Interpreters.

- Adversarial situations can quickly and unpredictably escalate into physical violence. The interpreter could become the target of an angry or frustrated party to a dispute.

- There may be legal ramifications if a Student Interpreter renders an inaccurate or incomplete interpretation in a sensitive situation.

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The program has repeatedly demonstrated that these students can not only graduate (often early), but begin to see their bilingualism as an asset, moving into higher education and/or entry-level interpreting careers.

Graduating seniors over the age of 18 may sit the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services interpreter certification exam.

A state articulation agreement gives students credit for courses in the Bellevue (WA) College T&I Certificate program.
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The entire curriculum is available at no cost by contacting the American Translators Association, and those involved in the program are happy to entertain questions, and extend an invitation to visit.

ATA

Videos, mini-courses, and additional information can be found at https://pssc.highlineschools.org/programs/translation-interpretation.
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questions?

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