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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **National Cued Speech Association Endorses EIPA-CS for Cued Language Transliterators**

**June 25, 2008—Bethesda, MD**—Several years ago, the National Cued Speech Association helped fund the development of a pilot version of an evaluation and assessment tool for cued language transliterators working in K-12 educational settings. The Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment (EIPA) is already available for sign language interpreters and in active use in more than [30 states](#) around the country.

With the funding, Dr. Jean Krause (University of South Florida) developed an EIPA version that focuses on evaluating the specific skills that transliterators need, including mechanics, fluency, accuracy of the delivered message, voicing for the client, etc. Dr. Krause, along with consultants and longtime consumers, did an excellent job of developing and evaluating the EIPA-CS for validity and reliability.

Boys Town National Research Hospital is interested in making the EIPA-CS available for use around the country and has asked for the NCSA's endorsement. The NCSA has agreed to endorse the EIPA-CS and supports Boys Town in their endeavor to make this assessment available.

The NCSA board has not made this decision lightly. Academic advisors familiar with psychometric evaluations and test development were asked to review the EIPA-CS and make a recommendation as to whether it is a viable assessment. Those who reviewed the data reported confidence in the validity and reliability of the assessment and the pilot study. (*For more information about the rigorous process used to develop the EIPA-CS, you may read an article that was recently published in the Journal of Deaf Studies and Deaf Education: <http://jdsde.oxfordjournals.org/cgi/content/full/13/3/432?etoc>*).

With more than 30 states requiring their sign language interpreters working in elementary and secondary school settings to take the EIPA, the NCSA feels that cued language transliterators should have equal access to this type of evaluation assessment. Many states and school systems are outsourcing all aspects of assessment and looking for avenues in which to cut spending and eliminate administrative hassle. The EIPA-CS will allow these and other states access to a reliable tool for assessing their cued language transliterators, just as they do their sign language interpreters.

The NCSA's endorsement of the EIPA-CS does not preclude supporting other assessments and certifications for cued language transliterators. The NCSA is committed to supporting any evaluation or certification that can effectively assess the skills of CLTs and cuers alike.

For more information about the Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment, click the following links:

[Boys Town National Research Hospital  
RID-EIPA agreement  
Developing the EIPA-CS Pilot](#)

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*The National Cued Speech Association champions effective communication, language development and literacy through the use of Cued Speech. The NCSA launched the Deaf Children's Literacy Project in 1997. For more information, contact [info@cuedspeech.org](mailto:info@cuedspeech.org) or visit [www.cuedspeech.org](http://www.cuedspeech.org).*