



# MASSACHUSETTS ADVOCATES *for* CHILDREN

## ***An Act Relative to the Certification of Interpreters in Educational Settings***

HD 2680 – Sponsored by Representative Diana DiZoglio

This legislation directs the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) to create standards and competencies for the hiring and use of interpreters in educational settings in order to provide limited English proficient (LEP) parents and students with competent interpretation services.

School districts are already required to provide interpreter services for LEP families pursuant to state and federal law. However, many families across the Commonwealth continue to face significant language access barriers. Currently, many school districts rely on untrained employees or volunteers who are often unqualified as interpreters and unprepared to adequately interpret information vital to a child's growth and development. As a result, too many parents are provided inaccurate information, are unable to participate meaningfully in their child's education, and are unable to access equal education opportunities for their children. Meaningful language access is one of the greatest challenges faced by LEP families.