



**LEGISLATION AND  
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September 10, 2019

Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Governor of California  
Capitol Building, 1st Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 695 (PORTANTINO) – REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE**

Dear Assembly Member Gonzalez:

Disability Rights California (DRC), a non-profit advocacy organization that advances and protects the rights of Californians with disabilities, **sponsors SB 695 and requests your signature.**

SB 695 requires the local educational agency (LEA) to provide a parent with a copy of the individualized education plan (IEP) including any revisions, in the native language of the parent, within 30 days of the meeting, if requested, or within 30 days of a later request, if the translation requested is in one of the top eight non-English languages in the district.

The bill also requires IEP documents to be translated by a qualified translator as defined and revises the definition of “parent” to specify that it includes the educational rights holder and the conservator of a child.

SB 695 reaffirms the existing legal obligation that the LEA take any action necessary to ensure that the parent understands the proceedings during the planning process for the individualized education program, including during the individualized education program team meeting. This includes obligation to communicate in the native language of the parent, as specified in Section 300.29 of Title 34 of the Code of Federal Regulations or in another mode of communication used by the parent; arranging for an interpreter for a parent with deafness or whose native language is a

language other than English; providing translation services; and providing alternative communication services, as required by Article 9.5 (commencing with Section 11135) of Chapter 1 of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code and its implementing regulations, which require language access.

California is the most diverse state in the nation and the organizational goals of DRC include addressing service disparities and ensuring language access for all communities. The IEP, through the identification of individual goals, objectives and services, is the cornerstone of ensuring that students with disabilities have access to a free and appropriate education. Additionally, we note that the state's largest school district, Los Angeles Unified, is already obligated to translate 85% of IEPs into the District's most common languages within 30 days under the terms of the Chanda Smith Consent Decree.

The requirement to have IEP documents translated within 30 calendar days allows a family and school to do what is in the best interest of the student. SB 695 does much to level the playing field by ensuring that parents whose native language is not English have timely access to a translation of their child's IEP to allow for meaningful involvement in their child's education.

For these reasons, DRC sponsors this bill and requests your signature. Please contact me if you have any questions or if I can provide any further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric Harris". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "E" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Eric Harris  
Legislative Advocate 2  
Disability Rights California

cc: Honorable Anthony Portantino, California State Senate  
Kristi Lopez, Senior District Representative, Office of Senator Portantino  
Jennifer Johnson, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs  
Sam Miller, Assistant Legislative Deputy, Office of Legislative Affairs