

The difference between an Educational Interpreter (EI) and a Communication/Education Support Worker (C/ESW)

An EI is suitable for a student if the student's needs are one, or a combination of the following:

The student:

- Is working independently.
- Has a high level of NZSL fluency.
- Is interacting with the teacher and class directly (asking questions, requesting additional explanations).
- Is responsible for their own learning.
- Requires some unpacking of terminology within the classroom programme.
- Can make decisions regarding communication needs (can ask for repetition, further explanation etc).
- Can (or is developing the ability to) manage own communication needs i.e., can ask interpreter to move to more accessible space, manages when to attend to interpreter and when to take notes, has autonomy of communication needs.

An Educational Interpreter prepares students for the time after school, when they will be required to use interpreters in the community. An EI supports the transition between C/ESW and full Interpreter, encouraging student independence and self-advocacy whilst still supporting and extending their learning. An EI facilitates the communication between the student and the teacher/classmates.

A C/ESW is suitable for a student if the student's needs are one, or a combination of the following:

- Needs extra unpacking of subject's content that is additional to classroom programme.
- Has less than fluent NZSL levels.
- Requires 1-1 time alongside CESW to do follow up work on some subjects or activities.
- Requires support to manage attention to CESW and classroom communication.
- Requires the C/ESW to write notes, explanations or communications about what they have done. For the student's own reference in following lessons and/or as communication home to parents.
- Has higher behavioural issues that need managing.
- Has additional learning needs that need managing beyond just teacher control.

A C/ESW works alongside the student to unpack and explain new learning, provide examples, support the student through independent learning time and ensures learning is cemented.

