

# Roles in the Classroom

## *Roles of Teachers, Deaf Students and Interpreters*

### Role of the Teacher

- Teach the deaf student
- Interact with and discipline the deaf student in the same manner as the other students in the class
- Manage the communication dynamics of the classroom to allow the deaf student to participate in the same manner as the other students
- Work with the interpreter and student to maximize the accessibility of the classroom for the student
- Provide the interpreter with information about upcoming lessons, activities and new vocabulary, including:
  - Lesson plans & goals
  - Handouts
  - Visuals – overheads, charts
  - Textbooks & readings
  - Videos
- Orient the rest of the class to the presence of the deaf student and interpreter
- Foster connections between the deaf student and classmates



### Role of the Deaf Student

- Participate in class and pay attention to the teacher through the interpreter
- Follow the teacher's directions
- Prepare for class
- Ask the teacher for assistance when it is needed
- Help the teacher understand what modifications are needed
- Work with the teacher and interpreter to make the classroom accessible
- Avoid conversing with the interpreter while he or she is interpreting



### Role of the Interpreter

- Interpret what is said and signed, conveying the content of the message and the intent of the speaker
- Ask for clarification as needed
- Work with teacher and student to maximize the accessibility of the classroom for the student, including managing:
  - Visual information in the classroom (e.g. demonstrations, models, overheads, writing on the board, videos)
  - Environmental factors (e.g. lighting)
  - Positioning so the deaf student can see the interpreter, teacher, other students and visuals
  - Conversation flow (e.g. group discussions, many students talking at once)
- Prepare to interpret by learning about the content and vocabulary of upcoming lessons
- Orient staff members and students to the role of an educational interpreter and the use of interpreting services
- Collaborate as a member of the educational team for the student
- Adhere to professional standards and legal requirements regarding confidentiality

