

Terri Mertz

Coordinator/Teacher of Signs for All

A native of Rochester, NY, and a long-time Town of Greece resident, Terri Mertz earned her Associate

Degree in Business Technologies from Rochester Institute of Technology and the National Technical Institute for the Deaf (RIT/NTID), her



Bachelor of Science in Community and Human Services at Empire State College, and her Master of Science in Secondary Education of Students Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing at RIT/NTID. Terri was employed at Monroe BOCES #1 and taught American Sign Language classes to Middle and High School students at various school districts in Monroe County.



Signs for All

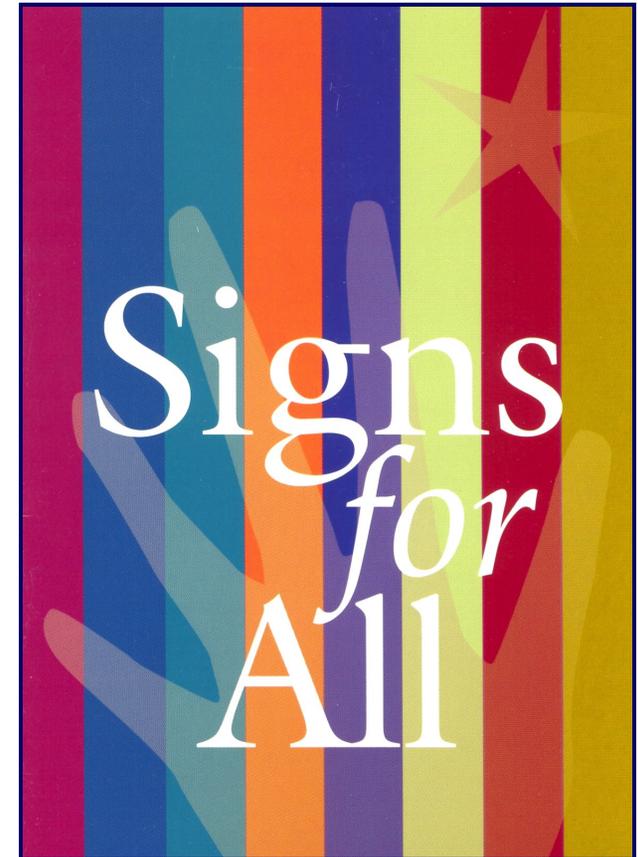
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Rochester School for the Deaf **Signs for All**—ASL Instruction & Evaluation

Popularity of ASL

Ranked third, **American Sign Language (ASL)** is one of the most commonly used languages in North America, behind English and Spanish. ASL is popular in Rochester, NY, because our area has **one of the largest populations of deaf and hard of hearing people in the United States.**

At the **Rochester School for the Deaf (RSD)** you can obtain expert instruction in ASL that fits your schedule through **Signs for All**, a community-based ASL instruction program for adults and children.

Signs for All Program

Signs for All (SFA) provides a series of **daytime and evening ASL classes.** The program also offers the Sign Language Proficiency Interview (SLPI), to assess how well people use sign language for communication, and, to assist them, as needed, in the development of their sign language communication skills.

Over a **10-week schedule**, Signs for All participants receive instruction from expert teachers who are fluent in ASL. Students learn about ASL structure and basic vocabulary; perform drills and exercises; and, engage in dialogue with their teachers and with fellow students.

Our approach is to help you to understand and use ASL the way it is used within the Deaf community. We believe that an effective way for you to learn ASL is to have a good understanding of Deaf Culture.

Classes, Cost, and Student Materials

Daytime classes are held at RSD or an off-campus location, during a time most convenient for participants.

Evening classes are held on Tuesday & Thursday nights from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on the RSD campus, 1545 St. Paul Street, Rochester, NY, 14621.

The cost for a 10-week program is \$115/person.

Often, the fee is waived for immediate RSD family members, including: RSD parents and legal guardians, grandparents, and family siblings of deaf and hard of hearing child / children attending RSD. To register online or to download and print a registration form, visit: www.RSDeaf.org/SFA.

The textbook: *Signs of the Times* is required for all class levels. The cost of this book is additional to the fee for classes.

The levels of classes include: ASL 1, ASL 2, ASL 3 and ASL 4. **Classes are limited to 15 people, so that you'll get the personalized attention you need.**

To register for Signs for All ASL classes, SLPI, or for more information about ASL instruction and skill assessment:

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Sign Language Proficiency Interview

The goal of the SLPI is to assess how well people are able to use sign language for communication, and, as appropriate, to use this information to assist people in development of their sign language communication skills.

The SLPI involves a one-to-one conversation in sign language between an interviewer and candidate/interviewee. Interview content varies according to the background, job responsibilities, schooling, and other interests of each SLPI candidate/interviewee.

SLPI interviews are recorded and subsequently rated independently by SLPI raters. The basis for ratings is the SLPI Rating Scale, a standard scale based on the sign language communication skills of highly skilled, knowledgeable native/native-like signers.

The cost of an SLPI interview coordinated and conducted through the RSD Outreach Services is \$150. A follow-up interview is \$60. When an interview is scheduled, the interviewee receives a confirmation letter which outlines: the dates, time, and location of the SLPI interview; a description of the SLPI process; tips on how to perform well during the interview; details on the rating scale; and, a follow-up questionnaire.

Who Needs SLPI?

- ASL/English Interpreters
- Parents and family members
- BOCES teachers and staff
- Vocational/rehabilitation services staff
- NYS Civil Services staff who require sign language skills
- Personnel in teaching programs for deaf and hard of hearing students
- Medical, health and counseling personnel
- Employees at companies and organizations who are required to use ASL in the course of their work