

# Speech-Language Pathologist



**Roles and Responsibilities:** Speech-language pathologists (SLPs) work to prevent, assess, diagnose and treat speech, language, social communication, cognitive-communication and swallowing disorders in children. In addition, speech-language pathologists provide training and education to families, caregivers and other professionals. Additionally, they provide counseling, consultative services and work collaboratively with professionals in the educational arena to determine supports and services for the whole child.

**Information about Speech-Language Pathologists:** Speech-language pathologists in schools must have at least a master's degree, pass a national exam and complete a supervised professional experience. Speech-language pathologists in schools are required to maintain two licenses: an Ohio Department of Education professional license and a license from the Ohio Speech and Hearing Professionals Board.

## Speech-Language Pathologists are Trained to:

- Offer a unique perspective as an expert in communication development and disorders;
- Facilitate students' access to the academic curriculum and functional life skills by targeting the language processes of reading, writing, speaking, listening and learning;
- Use evidence- and research-based intervention strategies;
- Serve on intervention teams and multi-tiered system of support teams to collaborate in the development of intervention and accommodation plans;
- Provide students ages 3-21 services and support within a diverse range of service delivery models, including direct instruction and collaborative models;
- Serve as a schoolwide and/or district consultant and resource for administrators, educators, parents and students regarding communication disorders and language-learning disabilities;
- Target a wide range of communication disorders, including:
  - Speech sound disorders
  - Language disorders
  - Pragmatics
  - Voice and fluency disorders
- Address communication disorders across all disability categories;
- Support changing communication demands of students as they transition throughout their school careers and into the community.

## References

- American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, (2010). Roles and responsibilities of speech-language pathologists in schools [Professional Issues Statement]. Available from <https://www.asha.org/policy/P2010-00317/>.
- American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (2016). Scope of practice in speech-language pathology [Scope of Practice]. Available from <https://www.asha.org/policy/SP2016-00343/>.
- Ohio Department of Education. (2014). Ohio Operating Standards for the Education of Children with Disabilities. Available from <https://education.ohio.gov/getattachment/Topics/Special-Education/Federal-and-State-Requirements/Operational-Standards-and-Guidance/2014-Ohio-Operating-Standards-for-the-Education-of-Children-with-Disabilities.pdf.aspx>.
- Ohio Speech and Hearing Professional Board (2014). What can your Speech-Language Pathologist do for you? Available from [www.shp.ohio.gov](http://www.shp.ohio.gov).