



ASHA
American
Speech-Language-Hearing
Association

October 3, 2024

Ms. Amber Diego
New Mexico Speech-Language-Hearing Association
SLPA Task Force
P.O. Box 162
La Mesa, NM 88044

RE: Proposed Speech-Language Pathology Assistant Legislation

Dear Ms. Diego:

On behalf of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA), I write to share our support, with recommended amendments, to the draft speech-language pathology assistant (SLPA) licensure legislation.

ASHA is the national professional, scientific, and credentialing association for 234,000 members, certificate holders, and affiliates who are audiologists; speech-language pathologists (SLPs); speech, language, and hearing scientists; audiology and speech-language pathology assistants; and students. Over 1,400 ASHA members reside in New Mexico.¹

Requirements for Licensure—Speech-Language Pathology Assistant

ASHA supports the proposed licensure requirements for SLPAs; however, for Section A2) a), we recommend substituting the following language:

A2) a) Completion of coursework or a degree program that covers the content from ASHA's SLPA model educational program (see Speech-Language Pathology Assistants Model Education Plan for specifics).²

For this section, we recommend adding the following language:

A2) e) OR actively holding ASHA's SLPA certification.

License Renewal

We suggest adding the following as an option under this section for SLPA licensure renewal:

A.iii. OR actively hold ASHA's SLPA certification.

Scope of Practice—Speech-Language Assistant

ASHA supports the scope as specified in the draft language. We recommend considering further aligning the language to ASHA's SLPA scope of practice.³


Speech-Language Pathology Assistant—Supervision Requirements

ASHA supports the supervision requirements and ratios specified in the draft language but recommends further aligning language in B 6 to that in ASHA's SLPA scope of practice. Our scope no longer specifies percentages for direct and indirect supervision (with the exception of medically fragile) but states the following:

Supervision must be based on (a) the needs, competencies, skills, expectations, philosophies, and experience of the SLPA and the supervisor; (b) the needs of students, patients, and clients served; (c) the service setting; (d) the tasks assigned; and (e) other factors. Further, 100% direct supervision (synchronous or live telesupervision is acceptable) of SLPAs for medically fragile students, patients, or clients is required.

Thank you for considering ASHA's recommended amendments to this draft legislation. If you or your staff have any questions, please contact Eileen Crowe, ASHA's director of state association relations, at ecrowe@asha.org.

Sincerely,



Tena L. McNamara, AuD, CCC-A/SLP
2024 ASHA President

¹ American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. (2023). *New Mexico* [Quick Facts]. <https://www.asha.org/siteassets/advocacy/state-flyers/new-mexico-state-flyer.pdf>

² American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. (n.d.). *Speech-Language Pathology Assistants Model Education Plan*. <https://www.asha.org/certification/asha-speech-language-pathology-assistants-model-education-plan/>

³ American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. (n.d.). *Scope of Practice for the Speech-Language Pathology Assistant (SLPA)*. <https://www.asha.org/policy/slpa-scope-of-practice/>