

HOW WE DETERMINE WHEN TO ACT

Addressing an issue is necessary when a cause intersects with ASHA's vision, mission, and core values. The decision to act and to issue statements is the responsibility of the ASHA Board of Directors.

The Board of Directors uses [a framework](#) to help determine when an issue requires action by the Association. The framework is designed to provide a consistent set of considerations for approaching issues or topics on which ASHA may decide to comment or issue a formal statement. It is a purposefully subjective tool that relies on the experience and judgment of the Association's leaders who utilize it. Priority is given to topics that can be influenced by our actions. The framework will continue to be refined and improved as it is utilized.

The decision-making framework for issuing statements covers the following questions:

1. Does the issue significantly and directly relate to advancing science, establishing standards, fostering excellence in education and professional practice, or advocating for accessible and quality care for all with communication and related disorders?
2. Does the issue significantly and directly impact members' ability to deliver speech-language-hearing and related services, and/or professional preparation?
3. Does the issue significantly and directly impact clients/patients/students' ability to access quality service and achieve their desired communication and related outcomes?
4. Does the issue significantly and directly impact members or staff as individuals?
5. Can the issue significantly and directly be influenced by our actions?

To accompany the decision-making framework, guidance is provided to the Board of Directors covering additional factors to consider when issuing statements. The factors as outlined below could potentially be in conflict or might be interpreted or prioritized differently, depending on one's perspective.

ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE

- What subject matter experts (SMEs) or committees, boards, and councils can be consulted for input?
- Can ASHA provide thoughtful and substantive commentary that is relevant to our key audiences?
- Is there a key date or milestone that impacts when and why ASHA would comment?
- Can ASHA provide more on this topic? What existing resources and information can ASHA contribute to the issue?
- How shall ASHA represent significant diversity of opinion on an issue?
- What will be immediate responses/reactions to an ASHA statement? What are the unintended consequences of issuing a statement and is ASHA prepared?
- What are the potential consequences if ASHA does not comment on the issue?
- Is there an opportunity for ASHA to participate in a coalition or offer a joint message with similarly concerned or focused organizations?