



ASHA
American
Speech-Language-Hearing
Association

2024 ASHA Schools Virtual Town Hall Series

School Safety: A Town Hall for Educational Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists

October 16, 2024 | 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. ET

Panelist Bios

Nicole Brentlinger, EdS, MS CCC-SLP

Nikki has over 20 years of experience in public education and works in the areas of special education and speech-language pathology with a focus on assistive technology and augmentative communication. She is a licensed speech-language pathologist and holds dual certification as a special education teacher in both Missouri and Illinois.

Currently, Nikki is a Director at the Special School District of St. Louis County (SSD) in Missouri. In this role, she leads the departments of Assistive Technology, Augmentative & Alternative Communication, and the Instructional Resource Center. This role and its departments support over 2,400 students each year.

Nikki is also actively engaged with ASHA SIG 11 (Administration and Supervision) and SIG 12 (Augmentative and Alternative Communication).

Nikki has presented locally as well as nationally at conferences such as the Assistive Technology Industry Association (ATIA) and the Consortium for School Networking (CoSN). Her work focuses on integrating technology and communication support to better serve students with diverse needs in all areas of education and to encourage their greatest independence both now and in the future.

Rachel Archambault, MA CCC-SLP

Rachel is an SLP Program Specialist for Broward County Public Schools. After experiencing a nationally publicized traumatic experience at her workplace, Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, FL, she looked for ways to help students (and herself) after trauma. She found trauma-informed care (TIC) and has been presenting nationally to SLPs

as well as other healthcare providers and educators on how TIC can be used in their settings.

Kym Meyer, Ph.D., CCC-A

For over 30 years Dr. Meyer has worked in Deaf Education as a teacher, educational audiologist and program administrator. In 2002, she created Public School Partnerships, the first Massachusetts public school educational audiology consultation program at The Learning Center for the Deaf. Dr. Meyer retired as its director in 2022.

In 2021, Dr. Meyer completed a PhD in Special Education Policy at UMass-Amherst. In 2022, she earned a Disability and Health Policy Certificate through a LEND Fellowship (Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities) at the Shriver Center/UMass/Chan Medical School in Worcester, MA.

There are 56 LEND programs in 44 states that provide graduate-level interdisciplinary training to improve the health of children with developmental disabilities. If you are interested in improving services and reducing systemic barriers for disabled people, consider applying for a LEND Fellowship: <https://www.aucd.org/state-profiles>

Dr. Meyer has the only #EdAudAdvocacy page on Wrightslaw (a special education law website for parents). Her research interests include interprofessional practices to improve service delivery for DHH children regardless of if the child is learning a spoken language or ASL.

Since 2022, Dr. Meyer has been an Assistant Professor in the Speech-Language-Hearing Sciences Department at Worcester State University. She teaches aural rehab, disability studies, disability history, and research methods to undergraduate and graduate SLP students. She also shares best practices via the #RethinkingAuralRehab account on Facebook and Instagram to improve university pedagogy of teaching aural rehabilitation.

Molly Riggs, MS CCC-SLP/ATP

Molly is a Speech Language Pathologist and Assistive Technology Practitioner with over 34 years of experience in the field of speech language pathology, assistive technology, and augmentative communication. Molly works for the Carroll County Public School system in Maryland. She works with students from birth to 21 years old with all abilities. Additionally, she works with parents, caregivers, staff, and other stakeholders to support autonomous communication across all environments including school, home and within the community.

Amy Schlessman, PT, DPT, DHSc

Amy is an assistant professor at Tufts University Doctor of Physical Therapy Program. She has over 22 years of experience as a school-based physical therapist, working with early childhood and school-age students, teachers, parents, and administrators. Her research is focused on embedding physical activity throughout the school day/health promotion, collaborative practices, and best practices in teaching.

Amy has delivered over 65 professional presentations at national and state conferences, and over 100 invited speaker presentations. Amy serves the Academy of Pediatric Physical Therapy as a State Advocacy Liaison for Ohio. She also serves the Ohio Physical Therapy Association as part of the Pediatric Special Interest Group's leadership team.

Amy has been involved in School Emergency Management Planning for almost 20 years. She chaired a publication for APTA Pediatrics entitled, "School Emergency Management Planning for Students with Disabilities."