



**ASHA**  
American  
Speech-Language-Hearing  
Association

May 17, 2022

Mr. Aaron West-Guillen  
President, Commission on Professional Standards in Education  
700 E. Fifth Street  
Carson City, NV 89701

RE: Proposed Speech-Language Pathology Education Changes

Dear President West-Guillen:

On behalf of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, I write in support of the proposed changes in educational requirements to a master's degree in speech-language pathology for those providing services in school settings.

The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) is the national professional, scientific, and credentialing association for 223,000 members and affiliates who are audiologists; speech-language pathologists; speech, language, and hearing scientists; audiology and speech-language pathology support personnel; and students. Speech-language pathologists (SLPs) identify, assess, and treat speech, language, and swallowing disorders. Over 1,000 ASHA members reside in Nevada.<sup>1</sup>

Nevada can ensure that SLPs have received the appropriate training and education to assess and treat speech, language, swallowing, and cognitive communication disorders in children by requiring a master's in speech-language pathology. Services provided by an appropriately trained SLP help children acquire speech-language skills, and enable individuals to recover essential skills to communicate, safely swallow, or maintain sufficient attention, memory, and organizational skills to function in their environment.

Nevada is the only state in the country allowing SLPs with a bachelor's degree to service children in school settings. SLPs require a higher level of training due to their scope of practice which includes prevention, assessment, and habilitation/rehabilitation of communication, and treating swallowing disorders<sup>2</sup> Nevada currently has two master's level programs which would provide the additional education needed to ensure the safety of Nevada's children. Outside of the school setting, SLPs are required to hold a master's degree and are licensed by the Nevada Speech-Language Pathology, Audiology and Hearing Aid Dispensing Board.

Thank you for your consideration of ASHA's position to support the proposed increased educational standards for SLPs. If you or your staff have any questions, please contact Eileen Crowe, ASHA's director of state association relations, at [ecrowe@asha.org](mailto:ecrowe@asha.org).

Sincerely,

Judy Rich, EdD, CCC-SLP, BCS-CL  
2022 ASHA President

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<sup>1</sup> American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. (2022). *Nevada* [Quick Facts].  
<https://www.asha.org/siteassets/uploadedfiles/advocacy/state-fliers/nevada-state-flyer.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup> American Speech-Language-Hearing Association Scope of Practice in Speech-Language Pathology  
<https://www.asha.org/policy/sp2016-00343/#Domains>