



ASHA
American
Speech-Language-Hearing
Association

June 20, 2019

The Honorable Laurie VanderPloeg
Director, Office of Special Education Programs
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20202

Dear Director VanderPloeg:

On behalf of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, I write to request a welcome video for an upcoming conference we are holding.

The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) is the national professional, scientific, and credentialing association for 204,000 members and affiliates who are audiologists; speech-language pathologists; speech, language, and hearing scientists; audiology and speech-language pathology support personnel; and students.

ASHA will be holding its annual conference, "ASHA Connect 2019", from July 19-21 in Chicago, IL. The programming of ASHA Connect focuses on clinical and professional issues faced by speech-language pathologists working in health care, schools, and private practice settings. ASHA expects approximately 1,400 attendees, many of whom practice in school-based settings.

ASHA members are interested in learning more about Federal efforts relevant to the provision of services to individuals with communication disorders. This year, ASHA hopes to include a brief message from you welcoming our school-based speech-language pathologists. Specifically, we would appreciate a short video, approximately two minutes in length, welcoming our attendees to ASHA Connect 2019, highlighting support for speech-language pathologists who work with students, and outlining your welcomed efforts to advance critical initiatives that attract, prepare, and retain school-based personnel.

We would greatly appreciate if the Office of Special Education Programs could develop a welcome video that we can integrate into the opening session of the ASHA Connect 2019 conference. Please contact Eric Masten, ASHA's director of federal affairs, education, at emasten@asha.org to confirm your willingness to provide this welcome message.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Shari B. Robertson, PhD, CCC-SLP
2019 ASHA President