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From Education Policy to Practice: What School-Based Audiologists and SLPs Need to Know

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September 30, 2025

Professional Development

1.0 PDH will be available for attending the live event only.

This is not available for ASHA CEUs and cannot be tracked in the CE Registry. Participants must track and use PDHs for certification maintenance.

A Certificate of Attendance will be provided toward the end of the webinar to those who attend the full live presentation.

Zoom prevents mobile device users from accessing attachments in the chat. Please email grassroots@asha.org for a certificate if you've joined from a phone or tablet.

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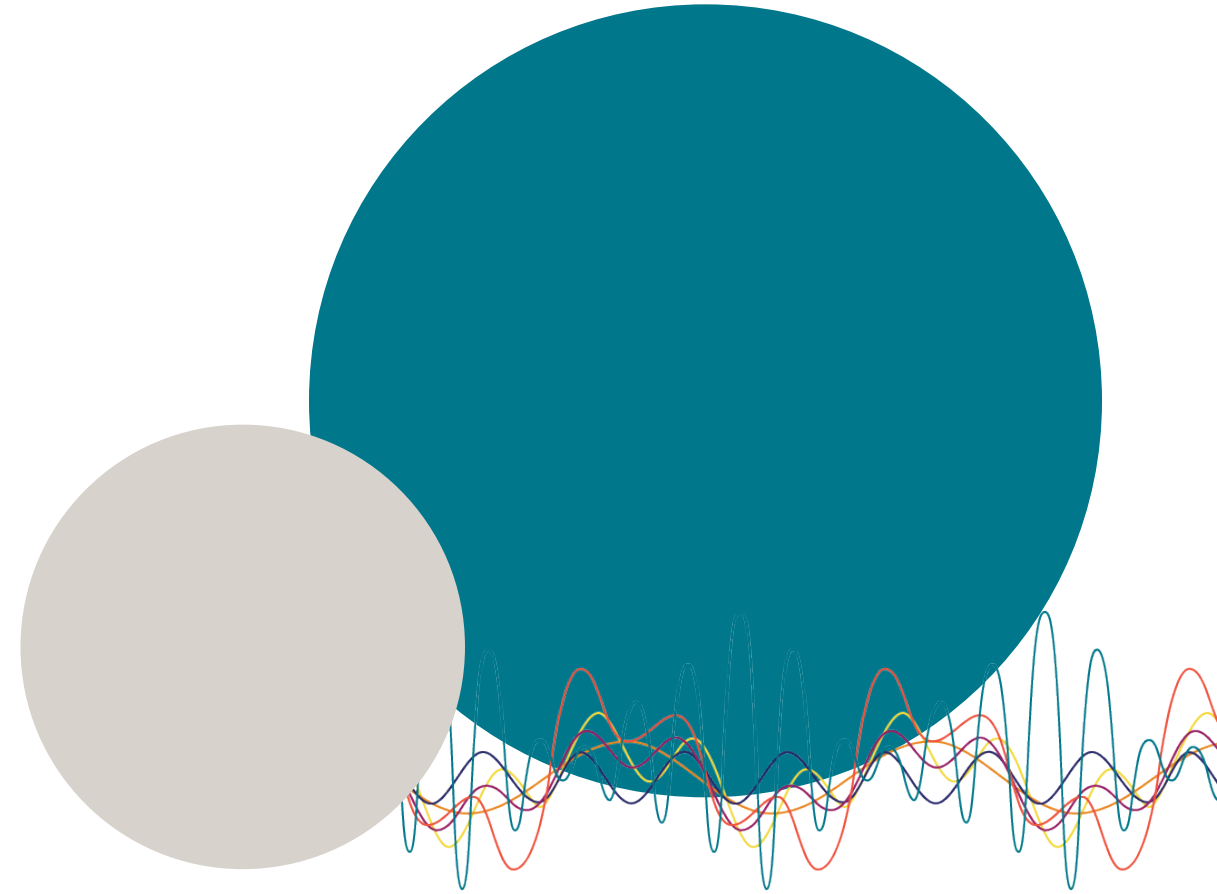
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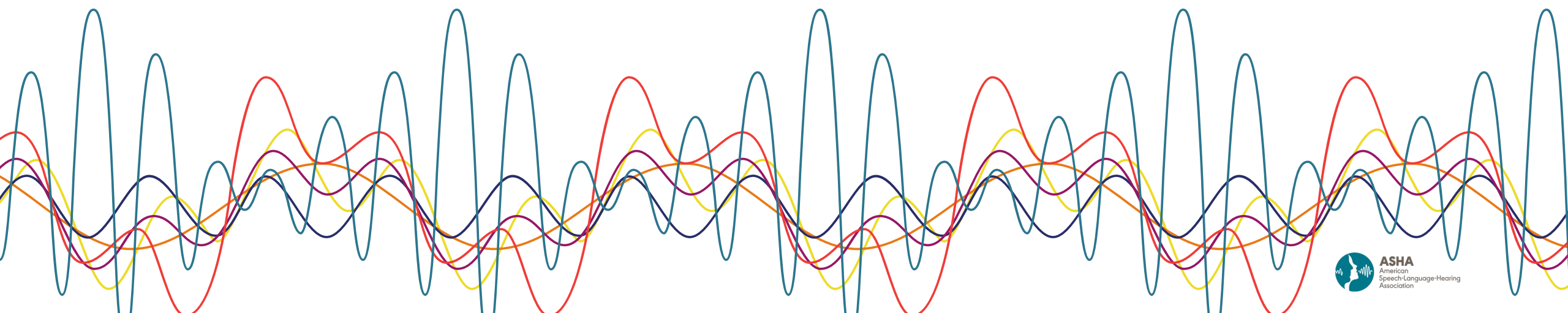
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Today's Topics

1. Overview & Update on Executive Orders/Administrative Actions Impacting Educational Audiologists and SLPs
2. Managing EOs & Restrictions in K-12 Practice
3. Higher Education – Student Loan & Grant Updates Impacting K-12 Education
4. School-based Medicaid
5. Q&A



Part I: Level Setting - Update on Executive Orders/Administrative Actions Impacting Educational Audiologists and SLPs



Executive Orders/Administrative Actions

Executive Orders Impacting Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology

A number of executive orders signed by the new Administration have the potential to significantly impact you and your work in health and education. ASHA is closely monitoring and tracking issues most relevant to the professions and will provide updates on current and new executive orders.

Although it will take some time to understand the full impact of current and future executive orders, we remain firmly committed to advancing ASHA's advocacy priorities. Review the [2025 Public Policy Agenda](#) to see ASHA's advocacy priorities on behalf of audiologists and SLPs, many of which support advocacy on issues directly impacted by the executive orders. You can also [take action now](#) to help influence the outcome of timely issues like protecting access to care under Medicaid, preserving the primary role of the U.S. Department of Education, and stopping Medicare payment cuts.

Executive order summaries are listed in the six categories below. Executive orders are subject to judicial review, and Congress can impose limitations through legislation, funding restrictions, or regulatory oversight. [Learn more about executive orders.](#)



Anti-Discrimination

[Learn more](#)



Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

[Learn more](#)



Education

[Learn more](#)



Federal Government

[Learn more](#)



Health Care

[Learn more](#)



Other

[Learn more](#)

We are closely monitoring the Administration's executive orders and providing analysis and updates on key actions that could impact Educational Audiologists and SLPs at:

- [Executive Orders Impacting Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology](#)
- [Advocacy News & Resources](#)
- [May 6, 2025 Webinar](#)

Some New Regulatory Activity

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act



Protection of Pupil Rights Amendments



Procedures for Investigations and
Enforcement of Title VI Violations



Elimination of Disparate Impact Theory Under
Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act

Federal Funding

Fiscal Year 2025

Administration continues to attempt to withhold FY25 funds:

- Cancelled continuation of IDEA Part D personnel preparation grants
- Withheld all Minority Serving Institution funds

Fiscal Year 2026 Spending

- Administration's proposed budget cuts ~15% from ED
 - Cuts postsecondary by ~14%
 - Cuts the maximum Pell Grant and other student aid
 - Eliminates institutional support programs
- House & Senate funding bills
 - Senate – slight increase over FY25 level, \$50 million increase for IDEA, largely freezes program funding levels, maintains maximum Pell.
 - House – 15% overall cut, \$20 million increase for IDEA, freezes and eliminates other programs, maintains maximum Pell,
- Federal shutdown is imminent and longer-term outlook is uncertain

Part II: Managing EOs & Restrictions in K-12 Practice

- See [Executive Orders Impacting Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology](#)
- Check State Resources for legislation updates on Sensitive & Emerging Topics: [State Legislative & Regulatory Policies](#)
- Consult with LEA/SEAs for guidance if you are restricted in supporting your students. Tell us with the [Federal and State Policy Impact Member Feedback Form](#)
- Most importantly, IDEA still supports individualized education programs/plans.

State Resources

[States with Specific Restrictions on DEI in Higher Education](#)

State laws banning the inclusion of DEI concepts in higher education that may affect ASHA members who work in higher education and students in CSD programs.

[States with Specific Restrictions on Instruction of Identity in Schools](#)

State laws restricting the instruction of sexual orientation or gender identity that may affect ASHA members who work with students.

[States with Specific Restrictions on Parental Notification](#)

State laws specifying requirements for practitioners to notify parents of a student's use of pronouns that do not align with their biological sex. These laws may affect ASHA members who work with such students.

[States with Specific Restrictions on Gender Affirming Care](#)

State laws restricting gender affirming care that may impact ASHA members who work with transgender clients.

Ensuring Communication Access: Protecting ASL Users



Recent executive orders rolling back DEIA programs may cause confusion or deprioritization around language access.



Misconceptions may arise that services such as sign language interpretation for a Deaf student who communicates using ASL are DEIA activities rather than essential legal accommodations.



Federal protections remain robust- ADA Title II and IDEA guarantee communication access. Under IDEA, families have multiple dispute resolution options, including mediation, resolution sessions, state complaints, and due process hearings. Families may also pursue OCR complaints if they believe there is a civil rights violation.



Educational audiologists and SLPs play a vital role in ensuring that students who communicate in ASL and their families have full and equitable access to the educational process, including IEP meetings.

EOs, ELs, & K-12 Landscape

What has CHANGED?

- Guidelines for Enforcement Actions in or Near Protected Areas (Rescinded 1/25)
- Executive Order 14224 (3/1/25)
- 2015 DOJ/DOE Dear Colleague Letter re: ELs (Rescinded 8/25)
- Future of OELA staffing, prioritization of OCR complaints, & Title III funding...

What HAS NOT changed?

- Title VI of the Civil Rights Act (1964)
- Equal Educational Opportunities Act (1974)
- Individuals With Disabilities Education Act, Part B (2004)
- Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act (1973)
- ASHA Code of Ethics (2023)

EOs, ELs, & K-12 Practice Considerations



What can you do?

- Identify and serve multilingual learners with disabilities
- Provide meaningful access to all programs
- Communicate with families in their languages
- Persevere in advocacy, mitigate disproportionality, and check out ASHA resources!

Part III: Higher Education Changes Impacting School-Based Members

- ED has proposed a rule to limit PSLF eligibility
- OBBA makes changes to student loan lending:
 - Changes to income-based repayment
 - Eliminates Grad PLUS loans (federal loans for graduate and professional students)
 - New lifetime borrowing limits:
 - Graduate students: \$20,500 per year; \$100,000 lifetime
 - Professional students: \$50,000 per year; \$200,000 lifetime
- ASHA is advocating to ensure audiology and SLP students are considered professional students

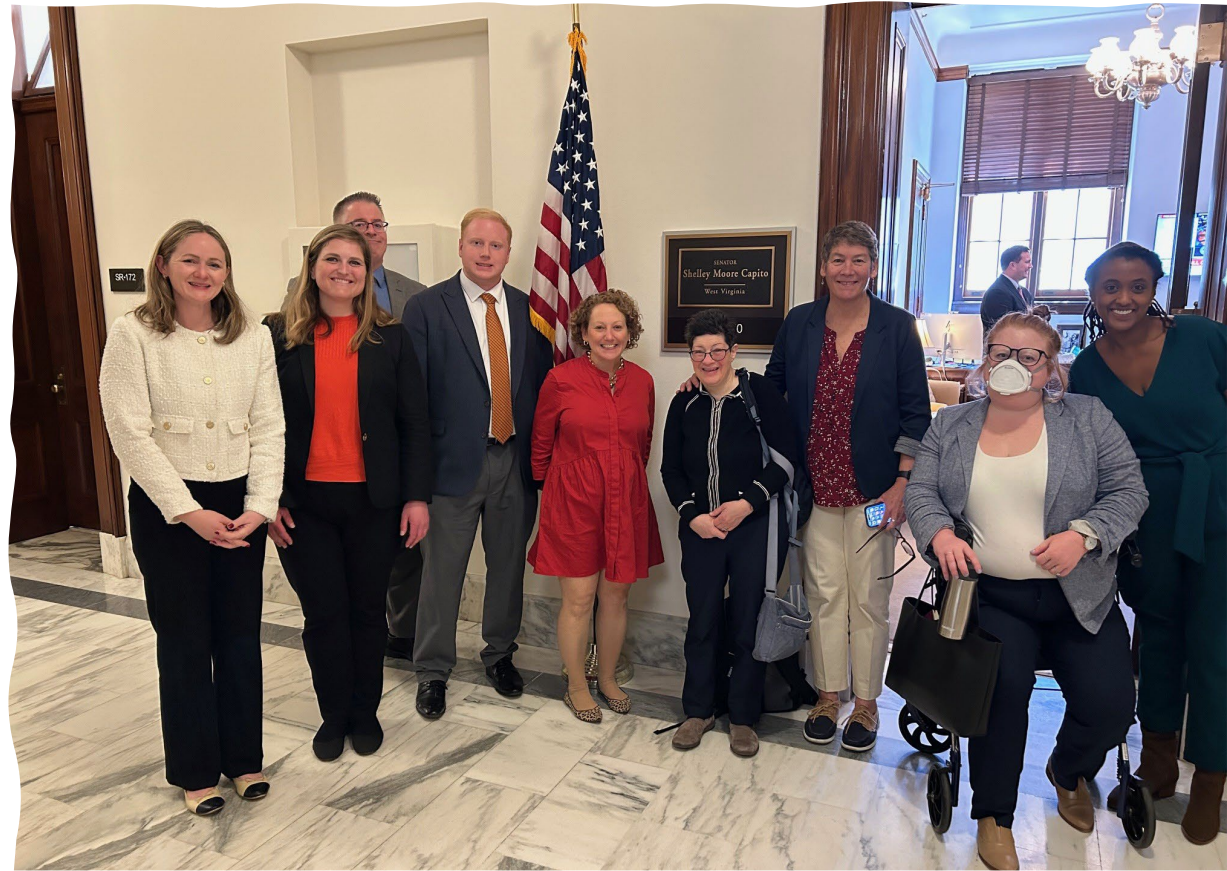
Part IV: School-Based Medicaid

- What is Medicaid?
 - A health insurance program for low-income children, families, and/or adults and people with disabilities
 - Almost half of US children are Medicaid beneficiaries
 - Medicaid is NOT the same as Medicare
 - 56 state and territorial Medicaid programs
 - If you've seen one Medicaid program, you've seen one Medicaid program
- What is school-based Medicaid?
 - Fourth largest funding stream for schools
 - Medicaid funds often cover services provided by educational audiologists and speech language pathologists



Medicaid and the One Big Beautiful Bill

- Why was Medicaid cut in the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBA)?
 - Needed a source of funds to achieve Presidential policy priorities
 - Cutting Medicaid is more politically palatable compared to cutting Medicare/Social Security
- What did ASHA do to help shape OBBA?
 - Met with congressional staff weekly: ASHA staff, Disability coalitions and ASHA Committees
 - ASHA Advocates sent over 30,000 letters Members of Congress telling them to protect Medicaid
 - Successfully avoided largescale FMAP changes, per capita caps, block granting



OBBA and School Based Medicaid



- The Bipartisan Safer Communities Act (2022) created:
 - School Based Medicaid [Technical Assistance Center](#) (TAC)
 - [School Based Claiming Guide](#)
- Sources at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) have shared concerns that funding for the TAC will be reduced or eliminated and the school-based claiming guide will likely be rescinded
- OBBA not even implemented yet and...
 - Provider payment rates have **already** gone down in five states
 - Waiting lists for Medicaid waiver programs are being created or are getting longer
 - County and state officials have shared the financial difficulties they are facing are extreme
- OBBA didn't cut school-based services and in fact the MAHA report emphasized their importance...why should we be worried?
 - Medicaid doesn't operate in a vacuum...healthcare costs impact all of us

Advocacy

Congressional Action & Engagement



Member Engagement Opportunities



Take Actions on ASHA's
Advocacy webpage



News Item & Updates

ASHA Advocacy Take Action

- Preserving the Role of the U.S. Department of Education
- Protecting Medicaid (including school-based Medicaid)
- College Affordability
- Full Funding of IDEA



Preserve the Primary Role of the U.S. Department of Education in Ensuring Access to Services and Supports Necessary for Student Achievement and Success!

7690 actions taken

2310 needed to reach next goal

President Trump has said he wants to eliminate the U.S. Department of Education (ED), and bills have been introduced in Congress that would eliminate ED and shift some of its programs to other federal agencies.

These proposals would transfer responsibility for many of ED's programs to other agencies, such as moving administration of the [Individuals with Disabilities Education Act](#) to the Department of Health & Human Services, or federal student lending to the Department of the Treasury. Other programs would be eliminated entirely.

It's imperative for ED to remain a cabinet-level agency to ensure that programs providing all students access to the services and supports that educational audiologists and school-based speech-language pathologists provide are overseen and implemented by those with the experience and expertise to ensure their success.

Use this form to contact your U.S. Senators and Representative to tell them about the important role that ED plays in supporting school-based SLPs and educational audiologists and urge them to preserve the role of the Department in ensuring student success. We encourage you to personalize the message to let them know directly how this would impact you and your community, their constituents.

Thank you for being an ASHA Advocate!

Take Action!

First Name *

First Name

Last Name *

Last Name

Address *

Street Address, City, and Sta

Email *

Email

Email Subscription Opt-Out

Select...

Cell Phone Number

+1

Thank you for joining our campaign. By providing your mobile phone number you consent to receive recurring text messages from our organization. Message & Data Rates May Apply. Text HELP for Info. Text STOP to opt out. No purchase necessary.

ASHA Member ID

Send

KEY TAKEAWAYS

Many of the Administration's proposed changes require Congressional approval or are experiencing judicial review.

ASHA Advocacy is engaging with Congress and providing members opportunities to engage Congress and share their [stories](#).

ASHA will continue to advocate for all necessary resources to support our school-based members and the students and families they serve.

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Questions?

Thank You!