



## **Supervision of Speech-Language Pathology (SLP) Graduate Students in Public Schools**

### **What Administrators Need to Know**

#### **What's the importance of graduate student clinicians in my school?**

Graduate clinical experiences are a critical requirement for obtaining the Certificate of Clinical Competence (CCC) from the Council for Clinical Certification (CFCC) of the American Speech-Language Association (ASHA) as well as state license and/or state teaching certification. Students working to become certified speech-language pathologists (SLPs) must be supervised in a variety of settings and have experience with students/clients across the age span who present with a variety of communication disorders.

#### **What benefits does my school obtain from school-based student placements?**

Graduate student clinicians are a potential source of future employees who are knowledgeable about the district's policies and practices and its students. Often, graduate student clinicians will stay on in schools as full-time employees, thus helping with the problem of vacancies and shortages. These students have experienced a "real-world" schedule, obtained a variety of clinical experiences, and acquired the clinical education required to treat school-age children and adolescents, making them valuable employees.

#### **What do SLPs say about their student supervisory experience?**

SLPs who serve as clinical educators to graduate student clinicians report many benefits derived from the practicum experience including:

- current information that students bring from their coursework
- stimulation of a new role as a supervisor as well as service provider
- professional and educational perks that may come from a relationship with a university
- satisfaction from sharing their expertise with future colleagues and ensuring that students are prepared for employment in school settings

The district then benefits from the increased motivation and morale of its employees.

#### **My SLPs are already too busy! How can I expect them to do more?**

Many school districts have found that the benefits of educating graduate student clinicians justify the supports that they put in place to encourage their SLPs to take on supervisory roles. These supports may include:

- release time for supervisory responsibilities
- professional education in supervision
- recognition for this professional contribution

Most SLPs see graduate student supervision as having more advantages than disadvantages, and are willing to accept that responsibility because of its many benefits.

#### **How do I find graduate student clinicians?**

A list of graduate programs in speech-language pathology is available at [www.asha.org/gradguide](http://www.asha.org/gradguide). You can speak with the graduate program director or clinic director for further information.