



**THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT /**  
**THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK / ALBANY, NY 12234**

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State Board for Speech-Language Pathology & Audiology  
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## **BOARD MEETING NOTES**

Date: Friday, May 2, 2025

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Location: New York City, Albany, Syracuse Offices and via WebEx

In Attendance:

Heather Pyke, Speech-Language Pathologist, Chair  
Joe Pellegrino, Audiologist  
Denise Cruz, Speech-Language Pathologist  
Nathalia Fonseca, Speech-Language Pathologist  
Melissa Fenice, Speech-Language Pathology

Kellie Murphy, Executive Secretary  
Christina Amato, Education Program Assistant  
Eric Andrus, Education Program Analyst

Minutes

Meeting was called to order at 10:00am.

The meeting minutes from November 8, 2024, were reviewed; however, a vote could not be taken due to lack of quorum. The Board will vote and finalize the November 8, 2024, and February 7, 2025, meeting minutes at the next scheduled meeting on September 19, 2025.

Murphy provided board office updates which included updates on license statistics and education program development. Interviews for new board members have been ongoing and we will hopefully have two new members for the next meeting. Lastly, Murphy shared legislative updates which included the reintroduction of the ASLP Compact which is grouped together with Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy.

The board discussed monolingual therapists providing speech services to bilingual patients. Within schools there is a bilingual extension for those certified teachers able to provide speech services; however, there is no equivalent credential for licensed speech-language pathologists. Guidance is provided on the ASHA website regarding the use of interpreters to provide services.

Fonseca provided background on the requirements to obtain the bilingual extension in that it is not language specific and requires completion of additional course work and an examination which is language specific.

The board agrees that licensure qualifying programs should include this information to better serve bilingual patients. Those practitioners who are not able to provide services to bilingual patients should refer to a professional who has demonstrated through education and experience that they are able to provide the appropriate services. The board also discussed the possibility of requiring such content such as DEI or bilingual care through continuing education requirements. Drafting of additional guidance will be developed and discussed at the next meeting.

Murphy shared that there has been movement to allow for professional examination accommodations within the professions. Architecture allows for the use of a dictionary and additional time and the Regents recently approved a similar accommodation for the social work examination. Currently, the Praxis II allows for additional time for those test-takers that are non-native English speakers. The Board agreed that possibly allowing a dictionary as an accommodation could benefit test-takers and aide in diversifying the professional population.

The board discussed a workforce shortage concerns specifically with Speech-Language Pathologists and education programs. Murphy reported that according to ASHA New York State has the most accredited speech-language pathology programs with 29; however, we licensed fewer professionals in 2024 than 2023. The CSD education survey reported that programs are not filled to capacity and cited common reasons are clinical placement availability, insufficient funding across the board, and insufficient candidate applying. The board agreed that there is a decline in interest since COVID and issues remain regarding funding and return on the investment (i.e. cost of school vs. salary) Thoughts to assist include creating more education flexibility with part-time programs, updating training model which is unchanged in the past 30 years, scholarship opportunities, creation of accelerated track programs.

Murphy provided an update on the Speech experience requirement regulatory change and the hearing aid dispenser practical exam conversations.

The meeting adjourned next meeting September 19, 2025.