



**October 2013  
FACT SHEET  
Speech-Language Pathology Assistants (SLPAs) Update**

From VSHA's SLPA Task Force

VSHA submitted an Application for Preliminary Review on Speech-Language Pathology Assistants to the Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR) in July 2013.

**Why did VSHA apply to regulate Speech Language Pathologist Assistants in Vermont?**

*To assure that professionals, who treat communication disorders have a specified level of training and experience protecting consumers receiving that therapy; and to assure all SLPAs are adequately supervised by SLPs. Over 35 states regulate SLPAs. The American Speech, Language, Hearing Association has recently promoted this method of service delivery.*

**What are the highlights of the legislation?**

- *Would go into effect in 8 years*
- *Requires an SLPA to possess an Associates or Bachelors degree, including at least 21 credits in an Speech-Language Pathologist Assistant training program and 100 hours of a supervised clinical practicum.*
- *Specifies what can and can't be done by SLPA vs SLP.*

**How do SLPAs help SLPs?**

*By increasing the frequency of treatment services for clients; preparing materials, assisting with billing documentation, data collection, and record management, scheduling and other administrative tasks, and reinforces the advocacy role of SLPs.*

## **What are the supervision requirements for SLPAs?**

*The proposed legislation comes from ASHA guidelines:*

*At a minimum:*

- *For the first 90 days, 20% direct supervision, 10% indirect of the SLPA. The SLP must see every client at least once every 2 weeks.*
- *After 90 days, the SLP must meet with the SLPA at least 1 hr a week, or more, as needed, seeing every client at least every 60 days.*

*Direct supervision can be done via real-time telepractice*

*VSHA is still discussing whether a full SLP license is sufficient, which is equivalent to ASHA's certificate of clinical competence. ASHA requires CCC plus 2 years experience.*

## **Where do SLPAs work?**

*Currently the majority of SLPAs are working within school systems in Vermont. However, at some point in time, positions may be prevalent within medical facilities, rehabilitation facilities, and nursing homes.*

## **What are the next steps?**

*In the Fall, OPR will notify VSHA of the status of this sunrise application. If accepted, it will be part of the OPR legislation this next session. Find out more at the VSHA annual meeting!*

## **What can you do to help?**

Participate on a committee or a Task Force. VSHA may need people (parents, SLPs and SLPAs) to follow the progress of the bill and to testify.

Please refer to the following link to see the OPR application and the preliminary legislation.

<http://www.vsha.us/school-issues-slp-assistant-task-force.html>

### **Task Force Members**

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