

Talking Points: Maintaining Standards for SLPs

- **Lower standards for School-based Speech-Language Pathologists** will not meet the needs of students:
 - **Undergraduate training programs are pre-professional.** Students completing a Bachelor's degree in Communication Disorders:
 - Only take coursework in normal communication processes
 - Lack coursework in assessment and evaluation of communication disorders
 - Lack coursework in educational impact and treatment of communication disorders
 - Lack supervised experience in providing services to children across developmental levels
 - **Allowing less rigorous personnel qualifications in schools** creates a two-tiered system of service in Indiana and discriminates against uninsured children and families that cannot afford private therapy
 - **Using under qualified personnel to assess and treat students** with special needs may result in over-identification or misidentification of students as "disabled".
 - **Bachelor's level personnel cannot bill Medicaid** for school-based services provided to eligible children.
 - **Lowering qualifications to fill vacancies** does not build capacity of qualified therapists.
- **There are currently options for addressing** the lack of Licensed Speech-Language Pathologists choosing to work in the school setting:
 - **Emergency permits** (implemented by the 2007 General Assembly)
 - **Support personnel** (HB 1098-2005)
 - Provides three levels of support personnel for use with Licensed Speech Language Pathologist.
 - Based on level, support personnel are able to complete tasks assigned and monitored by the Licensed Speech Language Pathologist.
 - Support personnel give a licensed Speech Language Pathologist greater flexibility in the delivery of school-based services to students with special needs.
- **We urge you to oppose any efforts to lower standards** for the education and training of Speech Language Pathologists to serve children with disabilities in Indiana schools.

Your Name

Your Title

Your contact information

Mary Jo Germani, Ph.D., CCC-SLP
Past President, Indiana Speech-Language-Hearing Association
mgermani@bsu.edu

Deborah R. Harman, MAT, CCC-SLP
President, Indiana Speech-Language-Hearing Association
dharmanslp@aol.com