



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education

May 30, 2014

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: Steven R. Staples, Superintendent of Public Instruction

SUBJECT: Licensing of Speech-language Pathologists Required by the Virginia Board of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology

The Governor signed [House Bill 373](#) that amends and re-enacts Section 54.1-26.3 of the *Code of Virginia* regarding the licensing of school speech-language pathologists. House Bill 373 requires that in order to practice speech pathology, individuals will need to hold a valid license issued by the Virginia Board of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (BASLP). Please refer to [Superintendent's Memorandum # 085-14](#) for background information on this legislation.

The legislation provides for individuals who hold an active, renewable license issued by the Virginia Board of Education with a valid endorsement in speech-language pathology on June 30, 2014, to be deemed qualified to obtain a school speech-language pathologist license from the BASLP. This includes individuals who hold an active Collegiate Professional, Postgraduate Professional, or Pupil Personnel Services Licenses with a valid endorsement in speech-language pathology issued by the Virginia Board of Education.

To assist speech-language pathologists who are seeking an initial license from the BASLP, the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) will pay \$70 towards a BASLP license (school speech-language pathology or full) for initial applicants who submit an [Initial Application with VDOE Endorsement School Speech-Language Pathology License](#) or [Initial Application with VDOE Endorsement Full Speech-Language Pathology License](#) to the BASLP between July 1, 2014 and December 1, 2014. "School speech-language pathologist" means a person licensed pursuant to §54.1-2603 of the *Code of Virginia* to provide speech-language pathology services solely in public school divisions. These applications and BASLP licensure procedures are available on the [BASLP Web site](#).

Submission of any other BASLP application for initial or renewal licensure will not qualify for VDOE financial support. Speech-language pathologists with a master's degree may apply for a BASLP full licensure (\$135 fee) by submitting the BASLP [Initial Application with VDOE Endorsement Full Speech-Language Pathology License](#), a payment of \$65 (the difference between the \$135 fee and VDOE financial support of \$70), and any additional documentation required by the BASLP.

Local education agency human resources staff and speech-language pathologists are reminded that:

- Effective July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015, in order to practice speech-language pathology in Virginia public schools, an individual must hold either:
 1. an active license with a valid endorsement in speech-language pathology issued by the Virginia Board of Education; or

2. a current, valid license in speech-language pathology (full or school only) issued by the BASLP.

- Effective July 1, 2015, in order to practice speech-language pathology in Virginia public schools, an individual shall hold at a minimum a valid school speech-language pathologist license issued by the BASLP.
- Individuals are not licensed to practice until they receive notification from the BASLP that their license has been issued. Applications in process are not sufficient for speech-language pathologists to practice. The VDOE funded application process may take 30-45 days. Practicing without the appropriate license may result in disciplinary action by the BASLP (§54.1-2603).

If you have any questions or need additional information regarding the Board of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology applications and licensure process, please contact the Board of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology, via e-mail at AudBD@dhp.virginia.gov or telephone at (804) 367-4630.

If you have other questions or need additional information, please contact [Mrs. Patty S. Pitts](#), assistant superintendent for teacher education and licensure; telephone (804) 371-2522; or [Dr. Mark Allan](#), director of licensure and school leadership; telephone (804) 371-2471.

SRS/mra