

Changes in federal mandates and increasing incidence of high needs disabilities have resulted in expanded scope of practice and increased workloads for school-based SLPs in PA. PA code has not adapted to meet evolving needs.

1975	Education for All Handicapped Children Act (PL 94-142). Public schools must provide equal access for students with disabilities.
1990 Expanded Scope!	Individuals With Disabilities Education Act (PL 110-476). Autism and traumatic brain injury added as eligibility categories, expanded requirements for transition planning and related services via new provisions for assistive technology.
1990	A chart defining SLP caseload as 20-90 sessions, appeared in PA Code Chapter 342.42.
1997 Increased workload!	IDEA is reauthorized (PL 105-17). Emphasis on participation in the general education curriculum, new requirements for transition planning, mediation, and an expanded definition of developmental delay.
2001	PA code Chapter 14.142 introduces a new chart defining caseload for SLPs as 65 students (at an itinerant level).
2004 Increased workload!	IDEA reauthorized (PL 108-446) with higher standards for special education teachers and more accountability for educational outcomes.
2006 Expanded Scope!	Federal government released new regulations, requiring use of research-based interventions.
2008	PA code governing personnel (14.105) reiterates the prior SLP caseload sizes. The response to comments in the PA bulletin includes this statement "The term "caseload" continues to refer to the number of students whose Individualized Education Program (IEP) the teacher oversees."
2010	American Speech and Language Association releases updated guidelines for school-based practitioners in response to expanded scope of practice.
2012 Increased complexity!	Rate of ADHD in US children 4-17 years rises to 11 percent from 7.8 percent in 2003.
2017 Increased workload!	Supreme Court ruled on Endrew vs Douglas County School District. Schools must include "appropriately ambitious" goals in IEPs.
2022 Increased complexity!	The incidence of autism for 8 year old children in the USA is 1 in 31, compared to 1 in 150 in 2000.
2023 Increased complexity!	Number of PA students identified with disabilities in PA schools rises to 20.1 percent from 15.4 percent in 2013.

SOURCES

[A History of the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act](#)

[Data and Statistics on Autism Spectrum Disorder](#)

[PA Code and Bulletin Volume 31](#)

[PA Code and Bulletin Volume 38](#)

[Facts About ADHD Throughout the Years | Attention-Deficit / Hyperactivity Disorder \(ADHD\) | CDC](#)

[Roles and Responsibilities of Speech-Language Pathologists in Schools](#)

[PA 1.0 Percent Compliance Plan Update August 2025 | Department of Education](#)

[Questions and Answers \(Q&A\) on U. S. Supreme Court Case Decision Endrew F. v. Douglas County School District](#)