Educational Specialist
Speech Language Pathologist (SLP) Certification
Information for Potential Applicants

Summer 2015
Educational Specialist - SLP

Who Should Apply?

You should apply if you wish to work in Pennsylvania public PK-12 schools and you fall into one of the three categories listed below:

- Professionally licensed Pennsylvania speech-language pathologists
- ASHA CCC-SLP
- Pennsylvania Educational Specialist Speech-Language Pathologist approved program graduates

Note: Pennsylvania Special Education Speech and Language Impaired Instructional I or II holders do NOT need this certificate. You are already certified.
What are the Similarities and Differences between the Instructional and Educational Specialist Speech Language Pathologist?

- Both perform the same duties working with students
- Both may be evaluated using the Education Specialist rubric
- The instructional certificate holder may be the teacher of record for a self-contained speech and language-impaired student classroom
- The instructional certificate holder may add additional subjects via testing; the educational specialist may not
### School SLP Evaluation Comparison

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Speech and Language Pathologist Educational Specialist</th>
<th>Speech and Language Impaired Instructional I</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PDE 82-3, Non-Teaching Professional Employee Evaluation (using rubrics that are cross walked with Danielson’s Framework for Teaching)</td>
<td>PDE 82-3, Non-Teaching Professional Employee Evaluation may be used. The PDE 82-1, Classroom Teacher Rating Form may be used if teaching (teacher of record)</td>
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<tr>
<td>PDE 82-3 Evaluation: 80 percent of evaluation based on observation/practice; 20 percent of evaluation based on school building level score</td>
<td>PDE 82-3 Evaluation (appropriate for most, if not all school speech language pathologists)</td>
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<tr>
<td>PDE hopes to offer new rubric designed specifically for speech pathologists in 2016.</td>
<td>OR</td>
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<td></td>
<td>PDE 82-1 (if TEACHING) Evaluation: 50 percent of evaluation based on observation/practice; 15 percent building level score; 20 percent teacher specific rating; and 15 percent elective</td>
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</table>
How Do I Apply?

1. Register in the PDE Portal at www.education.pa.gov
2. Establish a profile in TIMS
3. Complete and submit your online application
4. Send in required documentation
   a. Official transcripts in college-sealed envelopes*
      i. Bachelor’s Degree
      ii. Speech Language Pathology program
   b. PDE 338 A/C form* (supplied with application) from college where you completed the speech-language program
   c. Photocopy of current Pennsylvania license and/or ASHA license if applicable

* Collect and mail these to us – do not have them sent from the college. The A form is for out-of-state programs; C form for PA.
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How Do I Register in the Portal and Establish My TIMS Profile?

1. Navigate to www.education.pa.gov
2. Select the Teachers & Administrators menu in the upper right corner
3. Click on the Certifications link
4. Click on the green-highlighted TIMS Certification Application System link
5. Click on the Assistance with TIMS link
6. Click on the Getting Started with TIMS (PDF) link in the User Guides section

- Note – you only register one time. Follow steps 1 to 4 to access your established TIMS profile.
How Do I Apply in TIMS?

Welcome to TIMS!

Messages
PDF Reviews messages with the application. Please use the PA-Teach help line (717) 728-3224 or PDE Remedy for preliminary inquiries.

- My New Messages: 0
- My Inbox: 0
- My Sent Messages: 0

Profile & Settings
- View & Update My Profile
- View My Tests On File
- Profile Change Application

Emergency Permit Request
- No Permit Request Records Found.

Credential(s)
- No Certificate Records Found.

Note: * denotes a required field.
What Is In the Application?

Grades PK-12 certification offered for dental hygienist, elementary and secondary school counselor, home and school visitor, instructional technology specialist, school nurse, school psychologist, and speech and language pathologist. Elementary school counselor is available for Grades K-6 and secondary school counselor is available for 7-12.

Select Credential Type and Subject Area to be requested

Requested Credential Type*
Educational Specialist I (31)

Requested Certification Subject Area(s)*
School Speech & Language Pathologist PK-12 (1883)

Your application requires a response to the following preliminary questions.

Will a PDE-approved teacher education or other certification program in Pennsylvania verify that you meet requirements for the certification for which you are applying?  *

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* denotes a required field.
How Do I Select the Credential Type and Subject Area for the Educational Specialist Certificate?

1. Select Educational Specialist I (31) as the Credential Type
2. Select School Speech & Language Pathologist PK-12 (1883) as the Subject Area
3. Answer the preliminary question:
   a. Yes only if you completed an approved Pennsylvania Educational Specialist School Speech & Language Pathologist PK-12 program
   b. No if you completed an
      i. Out-of-state clinical program leading to state and/or ASHA certification (not a school program)
      ii. Pennsylvania clinical program leading to state and/or ASHA certification (not a school program)
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How Do I Select the Credential Type and Subject Area for the Instructional Certificate?

1. Select Instructional I (61) as the Credential Type
2. Select Special Education – Speech/Language Impaired PK-12 (9265) as the Subject Area
3. Answer the preliminary question:
   a. Yes only if you completed an approved Pennsylvania Instructional Special Education – Speech/Language Impaired PK-12 program
   b. No if you completed an out-of-state Instructional program leading to the out-of-state school certification
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What Else is in the Application?

1. Background Questions – no paperwork required unless you have a YES answer
2. Demographic Details – fill in the blanks; provide at least one phone number; use a personal email (not work or school)
3. Education Details – you must add your bachelor’s degree; other questions are based on your speech-language program information
4. Certification Details – do not add ASHA, Pennsylvania state license or out-of-state license unless they are educational certificates (you will submit your license copies later)
5. Work Experience Details – skip this section
What Else is in the Application?

6. Proof Items Details – you can upload a completed PDE 338 A if you attended an out-of-state college or PDE 338 C if you attended a Pennsylvania clinical program before it was approved as an Educational Specialist program.

7. Application Summary – review (and correct), check the Code of Conduct boxes, proceed to submit.

8. Payment Processing and Application/Request Submission
   a. Visa or MasterCard credit card or Money Order
   b. Application fee is non-refundable
      i. $125 for Pennsylvania Educational Specialist program completers
      ii. $185 for all others

The application remains incomplete until submitted.
What Else Should I Know?

If I am state licensed, have ASHA CCC-SLP, do I still need to obtain certification for working in schools?

Yes.

If have an Instructional I or II in Special Education Speech and Language Impaired do I still need to obtain the new certification?

No, and your application will not be processed.

Do I need to activate my Instructional certificate if I have not completed Act 48 requirements or do I have the option to apply for the new certification?

You should activate your Instructional certificate. The new certificate would also be inactive if you have an inactive Instructional certificate.
What Else Should I Know?

How long is the Educational Specialist certificate valid?
The certificate is valid for six years of service (not calendar years).

What do I need to convert to a Level II?
Three years of successful service and 24 post-baccalaureate credits (and yes, your master’s program credits count).

Is there any continuing education requirement?
Yes, you must earn 180 Act 48 hours every five years even if you aren’t working to keep your certificate active.
What Else Should I Know?

Is this fee of $185 a one time charge or do I need to renew the certification with fees?

There is a one-time application fee for the level I and another for the level II. There are no renewal fees.

Do I need to pass the Praxis II test?

Not if you provide a copy of a Pennsylvania Department of State issued Speech Language Pathologist or ASHA license.

Is my out-of-state license accepted?

Out-of-state license holders are encouraged to obtain the Pennsylvania license before applying for the Educational Specialist certificate.
What Else Should I Know?

When will Pennsylvania have Approved Programs?
All existing Instructional Programs Providers have a short approval process for the new program and should begin offering Educational Specialist programs soon.

Where can I find a list of Approved Certification Programs in PA?
Check the website: Approved Certification Programs

Are there any Approved Certification Programs in PA?
Yes, there are Instructional and Educational Specialist programs. Providers may offer both programs.
How Do I Obtain Help from the Division of Certification Services?

1. Review the Teachers and Administrators >> Certifications section of the [www.education.pa.gov](http://www.education.pa.gov) website.

2. Submit a Service Ticket for a written response within one or two business days. Include your PPID, application ID and specific questions.

3. Contact us via telephone or chat on business days:
   - Monday, Wednesday, Friday 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM
   - Tuesday 12:00 PM (noon) – 4:00 PM
   - Thursday 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM (noon)

   Phone: 717 728-3224 (717 PA-TEACH) or [Chat with certification staff](http://www.education.pa.gov) using the link on the Certifications website.
Questions?

For more information on the Educational Specialist SLP please visit PDE’s website at www.education.pa.gov

The mission of the department is to academically prepare children and adults to succeed as productive citizens. The department seeks to ensure that the technical support, resources and opportunities are in place for all students, whether children or adults, to receive a high quality education.