

ADVISORY

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & INSTRUCTIONAL ISSUES

Speech-Language Specialist Certification Requirements

For more than two decades, the certification requirements for Speech Language Specialist certificates (formerly Speech Correctionist) have been evolving and changing. These changes were necessitated by federal mandates. During the process, NJEA followed these changes closely and advocated for and continually communicated with NJEA members (See article below from the 2009 NJEA Review issue on Page 20).

Highlights of Current Requirements

- ★ The requirements for a standard Speech Language Specialist certificate include a Master's degree in speech language pathology and a passing score on the PRAXIS.
- ★ Alternate route candidates must possess a Bachelor's degree and be enrolled in a Master's degree program. Please see attachment for further details.
- ★ Effective July 2013, emergency certification is no longer available for SLS endorsement.

capital outlook

State Board adopts changes to licensing code

At its November meeting, the State Board of Education approved changes to the licensure and professional standards code.

One change of note involves speech correctionists, who can now work under their correctionist certificates until Aug. 31, 2015. (The prior deadline was 2010.) By this date, correctionists must either have obtained the speech language specialist certificate or completed the upgrade program.



20 NJEA Review JANUARY 2009

IMPORTANT DEADLINE APPROACHING

“Individuals holding a valid New Jersey speech correctionist endorsement may serve in a position requiring speech-language specialist certification until August 31, 2015, by which date they shall have obtained the speech language specialist endorsement or completed a department approved retraining program.”

Current Speech Correctionists must apply for the standard endorsement with enough time to receive the certificate by the August 31, 2015 deadline.

The August 2015 deadline reflects a five year extension approved by the state board in 2008.



Questions? Please contact:

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Speech Language Specialist STANDARD CERTIFICATE

(ENDORSEMENT CODE: 3462)

This endorsement authorizes the holder to provide service as a speech-language specialist in all public schools. To qualify for the Speech Language Specialist Standard, the candidate shall show evidence of meeting the following:

- A master's or higher degree in speech-language pathology, or its equivalent, from a regionally accredited college or university.
- A passing score on a State-approved test of comprehensive knowledge in the field of speech-language pathology. Currently this test is the Praxis II Speech language Pathology test #20330. Please go to <http://www.nj.gov/education/educators/license/1112.pdf> for more details.

All study must be completed at a regionally accredited college or university.

Other

- 1) Effective July, 2013, Emergency certification is no longer available for the Speech Language Specialist endorsement. There will be no renewal for previously issued emergency certificates. An alternate route to certification is available for eligible candidates. **Note:** Applications for the Speech Language Specialist CE can only be accepted in paper format. Please contact your County Office of Education for a paper application and additional information.
- 2) Individuals who hold a valid New Jersey speech correctionist endorsement and a master's degree in speech-language pathology shall be issued the speech-language specialist endorsement upon submission of a completed application and required fee.
- 3) Individuals holding a valid New Jersey speech correctionist endorsement may serve in a position requiring speech-language specialist certification until August 31, 2015, by which date they shall have obtained the speech language specialist endorsement or completed a department approved retraining program.

<http://www.state.nj.us/education/educators/license/endorsements/3462S.pdf>

Speech Language Specialist CERTIFICATE of ELIGIBILITY

(ENDORSEMENT CODE: 3462)

This endorsement authorizes the holder to provide service as a speech-language specialist in all public schools. To qualify for the Certificate of Eligibility for a Speech Language Specialist certificate you must present evidence of meeting all of the following requirements in either option:

Option 1

- Hold a bachelor's degree in speech pathology;
- Be currently matriculated in a master's program in speech language pathology/communication disorders from a regionally accredited college or university;
- Completion of 18 semester hour credits in speech language pathology/communication disorders,
- Completion of a graduate clinical; practicum in Speech language pathology/communication disorders

OR Option 2

- Hold a bachelor's degree in other than speech pathology;
- Be currently matriculated in a master's program in speech language pathology/communication disorders from a regionally accredited college or university;
- Completion of 24 semester hour credits in speech language pathology/communication disorders,
- Completion of a graduate clinical practicum Speech language pathology/communication disorders

All study must be completed at a regionally accredited college or university.

Other

- 1) Effective July, 2013, Emergency certification is no longer available for the Speech Language Specialist endorsement. There will be no renewal for previously issued emergency certificates. An alternate route to certification is available for eligible candidates. **Note:** Applications for the Speech Language Specialist CE can only be accepted in paper format. Please contact your County Office of Education for a paper application and additional information.
- 2) Individuals who hold a valid New Jersey speech correctionist endorsement and a master's degree in speech-language pathology shall be issued the speech-language specialist endorsement upon submission of a completed application and required fee.
- 3) Individuals holding a valid New Jersey speech correctionist endorsement may serve in a position requiring speech-language specialist certification until August 31, 2015, by which date they shall have obtained the speech language specialist endorsement or completed a department approved retraining program.

<http://www.state.nj.us/education/educators/license/endorsements/3462CE.pdf>