



Oregon

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- **SLPA Supervision Audit Update**

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Executive Director

The Board recently completed an audit of SLPA supervision in all Oregon ESDs and a sample of 8 other school districts. This was the first audit of SLPA supervision conducted since the Board adopted this as a Key Performance Measure this spring.

Some concerns identified through the audit were:

- SLPs supervising SLPAs without a current, valid SLP license or Permit to Supervise SLPAs issued by this Board
- SLPs supervising SLPAs without having the required two years of professional SLP experience
- An SLPA who also served one day a week as an SLP (licensed by TSPC), who did not hold SLPA certification by this Board

Issues related to appropriate licensure of SLPAs and SLPs are being addressed individually.

SLPs may not supervise SLPAs until they obtain appropriate SLP licenses or permits from this Board.

Clinical logs were also reviewed for two sample months as part of the audit. Review of the logs revealed that generally SLPAs appear to be supervised *more* than is required by our Administrative Rules. Some reports appeared to document inadequate supervision.

Over the next weeks, specific feedback will be given to each district that responded to the audit. Any specific action related to a licensee will be directed to that individual.

The clinical logs varied in their format, and showed inconsistency in terminology. It was frequently difficult to tell how many hours an SLPA worked in total, or how many clinical interaction hours they logged. As a result, the Board is working to develop a standardized log "smart form" that would clarify definitions and perform supervision calculations through Excel. The Board believes this will be a valuable tool for SLPAs, supervising SLPs, and audit reviewers. Input from users will be sought before this form is finalized.

This SLPA supervision audit provides a useful baseline for future reviews. In the meantime, the Board urges SLPs, SLPAs, and Special Education Directors or others supervising speech therapy services to review our rules regarding SLPA supervision. These are on our website at http://arcweb.sos.state.or.us/rules/OARs_300/OAR_335/335_095.html and http://www.oregon.gov/BSPA/pdfs/Notice_of_Permanent_Administrative_Rules-6-09.pdf. Questions about rules can be directed to the Board office.