The purpose of the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact (ASLP-IC) is to facilitate interstate practice of audiology and speech-language pathology with the goal of improving access to audiology and speech-language pathology services. ASLP-IC preserves the regulatory authority of states to protect public health and safety through the current system of state licensure.

The recent combination of increased mobility of patients and practitioners, changes to the health care system, and the rise of telehealth—especially in response to the COVID-19 pandemic—has highlighted the need for clinicians to have the ability to practice across state boundaries with minimal barriers. Occupational licensure compacts, like the ASLP-IC, address this need for states. Further, occupational licensure compacts allow states to assist one another during emergencies and disasters with no need for a Governors’ emergency decree or state licensing board action.

ASLP-IC will accomplish the following objectives:

1. Increase public access to audiology and speech-language pathology services.
2. Enhance the states’ ability to protect the public’s health and safety.
3. Encourage the cooperation of compact member states in regulating multistate audiology and speech-language pathology practice.
4. Support spouses of relocating active duty military personnel.
5. Enhance the exchange of licensure, investigative and disciplinary information among member states.
6. Allow for the use of telehealth technology to facilitate increased access to audiology and speech-language pathology services.

The ASLP-IC is similar in form and function to the existing occupational licensure compacts for health professions including Medicine, Nursing, Physical Therapy, Psychology, and Emergency Medical Services. To date, Kentucky has enacted the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact, the Nurse Licensure Compact, and the Physical Therapy Compact.

Since January of 2016, 137 separate pieces of occupational licensure compact legislation have been enacted by states. Forty-two (42) states have enacted at least one occupational licensure compact. Twenty-eight (28) states have enacted at least three occupational licensure compacts. In 2020, six states have enacted the ASLP-IC – Louisiana, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Utah, West Virginia, and Wyoming.

**The Bottom Line**

The ASLP-IC:

* cooperative agreement enacted into law by participating states.
* becomes operational when 10 states enact ASLP-IC into law.
* ensures that participating states communicate and exchange information including verification of licensure and disciplinary sanctions.
* requires audiologists and speech-language pathologists who wish to practice under the ASLP-IC to obtain a privilege to practice in the participating states.

Benefits of the ASLP-IC include:

* improving consumer protection by ensuring communication between member state licensing boards.
* increasing access to care for patients, clients, and/or students.
* facilitating continuity of care when patients, clients, and/or students relocate or travel to another compact member state.
* promoting cooperation between ASLP-IC member states on interstate licensure and regulation requirements.
* ensuring that audiologists and speech-language pathologists have met acceptable standards of practice.