

STATEMENT OF EMERGENCY
201 KAR 17:011E.

Pursuant to KRS 13A.190(1)(a)2., KRS 334A.055, and KRS 334A.188 SECTION 3.B.1, this emergency amendment to the administrative regulation is being promulgated to comply with the adoption of 2026 HB 657 which requires the Board of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology (the "Board") to require a national and state criminal background investigation for every applicant seeking an initial license issued by the Board to engage in the practice of speech-language pathology and audiology, and applicants seeking to reinstate a license. The criminal background investigation shall be by means of a fingerprint check by the Department of Kentucky State Police and Federal Bureau of Investigation. The effective date of KRS 334A.055 requires that this emergency amendment be promulgated to ensure there is no delay in processing applications upon the effective date of the Act. As a result, this emergency amendment to the administrative regulation—and the identical amendment to the ordinary regulation being concomitantly filed—have been amended to align with this statutory change to offset the potential delay in processing licensure applications—whereby the Board would be unable to process applications and collect fees in accordance with the terms of the statute—and therefore "prevent an imminent loss of federal or state funds" pursuant to KRS 13A.190(1)(a)2. This emergency amended administrative regulation is temporary and will be replaced by an ordinary amended administrative regulation as provided by KRS 13A.190. The ordinary amendment will be filed with this emergency amendment and will be identical.

MARGARET ADKINS, Au.D., CCC-A, Board Chair
ANDY BESHEAR, Governor

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS
Board of Speech-Language Pathology And Audiology
(Emergency Amendment)

201 KAR 17:011E. Education, experience, and application requirements for interim licensure as a speech language pathologist.

RELATES TO: KRS 334A.035, 334A.050

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: KRS 334A.055, 334A.080

CERTIFICATION STATEMENT:

NECESSITY, FUNCTION, AND CONFORMITY: KRS 334A.080 requires the Board of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology to promulgate responsible administrative regulations, including administrative regulations which delineate qualifications for licensure and renewal of licensure. KRS 334A.035 and 334A.050 require the board to promulgate administrative regulations concerning licensure as a speech-language pathologist, including a requirement that an applicant meet specified education and experience criteria as determined by the board. KRS 334A.055, requires applicants seeking an initial license to engage in a profession authorized by the board to obtain a national and state criminal background investigation by the Kentucky State Police and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. This administrative regulation establishes criteria for interim licensure for speech-language pathologists.

Section 1. Education and Experience.

- (1) Each applicant for interim licensure in speech-language pathology in Kentucky shall provide a certified transcript confirming attainment of a master's degree in the area of speech-language pathology or communication disorders from a program accredited by the Council for Academic Accreditation of the American Speech Language Hearing Association, or possess equivalent education.
- (2) An applicant shall have "equivalent" education if the applicant holds:
 - (a) A doctoral degree in speech-language pathology or communication disorders or a related area from a program accredited by the Council for Academic Accreditation of the American Speech Language Hearing Association; or
 - (b) A bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited college or university, and has completed all coursework and clinical practicum requirements leading to a doctorate or master's degree from a university program accredited by the Council for Academic Accreditation of the American Speech Language Hearing Association. A signed letter from the department chair or a director of graduate studies confirming all coursework and clinical hours have been met shall be provided if an official transcript is not yet available.

Section 2. Application for Licensure. Each applicant for Interim SLP licensure shall submit the following to the board:

- (1) A completed "Application for Interim License", form DPL-SLPA-01, containing a written description verifying completion of the required academic coursework and supervised clinical experience;
- (2) Pay the fee as established in 201 KAR 17:030;
- (3) Submit an official transcript or letter, which shall be sent directly from the academic institution verifying satisfactory completion of degree requirements. Credit shall not be allowed for courses listed on the application unless satisfactory completion is verified by an official transcript. The applicant receiving academic credit (semester hours, quarter hours, or other unit of credit) with a passing grade as defined by the academic institution shall constitute satisfactory completion.

(4) The results of a national and state criminal background investigation performed within the last ninety (90) days by the Department of Kentucky State Police (KSP) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) submitted directly to the board after payment of any required fee to the KSP and FBI. Any cases officially expunged shall not have to be disclosed by the applicant and shall not be considered by the board as a conviction for the purposes of this subparagraph.

Section 3. Postgraduate professional experience and supervision.

(1) After completion of academic coursework and clinical practicum, the applicant shall successfully complete a period of postgraduate professional experience under a supervisor who holds a valid Kentucky speech language pathology license or Education Professional Standards Board Master's level certification as a teacher of exceptional children in the areas of speech and communication disorders.

(2) The experience shall consist of at least thirty-six (36) weeks of full-time professional experience to consist of a minimum of thirty-five (35) work hours per week or its part-time equivalent as follows:

(a) At least eighty (80) percent of the major responsibilities during postgraduate professional experience shall be in direct contact with clients or patients, consultations, recordkeeping, and administrative duties.

(b) The postgraduate professional experience shall not total less than 1,260 hours accumulated within twenty-four (24) months of the beginning date of the experience.

(c) Professional experience of less than five (5) hours per week shall not meet the requirement and shall not be counted toward the postgraduate professional experience.

(d) Experience of more than thirty-five (35) hours per week shall not be used to reduce the postgraduate professional experience to less than thirty-six (36) weeks.

(e) Once initiated, the postgraduate professional experience shall be completed within twenty-four (24) months.

(f) An extension of the postgraduate professional experience may be requested utilizing the "Application for Extension of Interim License", form DPL-SLPA-02. An extension may be granted by the board in the event of:

1. Illness;
2. Change in employment status;
3. Family care issue; or
4. Other extraordinary occurrence impacting one's ability to complete the postgraduate experience.

(3) Any change in the written plan for the postgraduate professional experience, or any change in supervision, shall be submitted to the board on the "Change in PPE or Supervision for Interim SLP" form, DPL-SLPA-03.

Section 4. Supervision requirements for Interim SLP.

(1) The postgraduate professional experience supervisor shall not engage in fewer than thirty-six (36) supervisory activities during the postgraduate professional experience.

(2) This supervision shall include eighteen (18) on-site observations of direct client contact at the interim licensee's work site.

(a) One (1) hour shall equal one (1) on-site observation.

(b) A maximum of six (6) on-site observations may be accrued in one (1) day.

(c) At least six (6) on-site observations shall be accrued during each third of the experience.

(d) These on-site observations shall be of the interim licensee providing screening, evaluation, assessment, habilitation, and rehabilitation.

(3) The supervision shall include eighteen (18) other monitoring activities.

(a) At least six (6) other monitoring activities shall be completed during each of the three (3) segments of the postgraduate professional experience.

- (b) These other monitoring activities may be executed by correspondence, review of video tapes or audio tapes, evaluation of written reports, phone conferences with the interim licensee, or evaluations by professional colleagues.
- (4) The supervisor periodically shall conduct a formal evaluation of the applicant's progress in the development of professional skills.

Section 5. Examination requirements.

- (1) A person with an interim license shall take and pass a national PRAXIS examination in speech-language pathology within twenty-four (24) months.
- (2) Official documentation of scores shall be sent to the board directly from Educational Testing Services.

Section 6. Incorporation by Reference.

- (1) The following material is incorporated by reference:
- (a) The "Application for Interim Licensure", DPL-SLPA-01, July 2026;
 - (b) The "Application for Extension of Interim License", DPL-SLPA-02, July 2026; and
 - (c) The "Change in PPE or Supervision for Interim SLP", DPL-SLPA- 03, July 2026.
- (2) This material may be inspected, copied, or obtained, subject to applicable copyright law, at the Kentucky Board of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology, Department of Professional Licensing, 500 Mero Street, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

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MARGARET ADKINS, Au.D., CCC-A, Board Chair

APPROVED BY AGENCY: July 15, 2026

FILED WITH LRC: July 16, 2026 at 3:30 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING AND COMMENT PERIOD: A public hearing on this administrative regulation shall be held on September 22, 2026, at 3:00 P.M. Eastern Time, at the Mayo-Underwood Building, 500 Mero Street, Frankfort, Kentucky in PPC Conference Room 127CW. Individuals interested in being heard at this hearing shall notify this agency in writing by five workdays prior to the hearing, of their intent to attend. If no notification of intent to attend the hearing was received by that date, the hearing may be cancelled. A transcript of the public hearing will not be made unless a written request for a transcript is made. If you do not wish to be heard at the public hearing, you may submit written comments on the proposed administrative regulation. Written comments shall be accepted through September 30, 2026. Send written notification of intent to be heard at the public hearing or written comments on the proposed administrative regulation to https://ppc.ky.gov/reg_comment.aspx or the contact person.

CONTACT PERSON: Name: Sara Boswell Janes, Title: Staff Attorney III, Agency: Department of Professional Licensing, Office of Legal Services Address: 500 Mero Street Phone Number: (502) 782-2709 (office) Fax: (502) 564-4818 Email: Sara.Janes@ky.gov Link to public comment portal: https://ppc.ky.gov/reg_comment.aspx.