

STATEMENT OF EMERGENCY
201 KAR 17:032E.

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 "[p]revent 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 17:032E. Requirements for interim licensure as an audiologist.

RELATES TO: KRS 334A.185(2)

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: KRS 334A.055, 334A.080(3), 334A.185(2)

CERTIFICATION STATEMENT:

NECESSITY, FUNCTION, AND CONFORMITY: KRS 334A.080(3) 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.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 requirements for interim licensure as an audiologist.

Section 1. Application for Licensure. Each applicant for licensure as an interim audiologist shall:

- (1) Submit an "Application for Interim License", form DPL-SLPA-01, which is incorporated by reference in 201 KAR 17:011;
- (2) Pay the fee as established in 201 KAR 17:030;
- (3) Submit an official academic transcript sent directly by the academic institution to the board; and
- (4) Have 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. The applicant shall pay 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.

Section 2. Education and Experience.

- (1) Each applicant for interim licensure in audiology in Kentucky shall provide a certified transcript confirming attainment of a Doctorate degree in audiology or a related field, or possess equivalent education as described in subsection (2) of this section, excluding the Au.D. or substantive equivalent from a program accredited by the Council for Academic Accreditation of the American Speech Language Hearing Association or the Accreditation Commission for Audiology Education of the American Academy of Audiology.
- (2) An applicant shall have equivalent education if the applicant holds a doctoral degree in audiology, excluding the Au.D., from a program accredited by the Council for Academic Accreditation of the American Speech Language Hearing Association or the Accreditation Commission for Audiology Education of the American Academy of Audiology.

Section 3. Supervision.

- (1) The interim licensee shall function under the supervision of an appropriate supervisor as defined in KRS 334A.185(2).
- (2) Application for interim licensure shall be made within thirty (30) days of securing a supervisor and shall be completed under the supervision of a licensed audiologist.
- (3) Supervision shall be completed under an individual who holds a valid Kentucky audiology license.

(4) 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 supervision.

(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, or rehabilitation.

(5) 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 videotapes or audiotapes, evaluation of written reports, phone conferences with the interim licensee, or evaluations by professional colleagues.

(6) The supervisor periodically shall conduct a formal evaluation of the applicant's progress in the development of professional skills.

Section 4. Postgraduate professional experience.

(1) An interim audiologist shall successfully complete a period of postgraduate professional experience.

(2) A written plan for postgraduate professional experience shall be submitted with the application for interim licensure.

(3) The postgraduate professional experience shall consist of the following:

(a) At least eighty (80) percent of the major responsibilities during the postgraduate professional experience shall be in direct client contact consultations, recordkeeping, and administrative duties;

(b) Postgraduate professional experience shall not total less than 1,260 hours;

(c) Once initiated, postgraduate professional experience shall be accumulated within twenty-four (24) months. An extension of the postgraduate professional experience may be requested utilizing the "Application for Extension of Interim License", DPL-SLPA-03, which is incorporated by reference in 201 KAR 17:011. 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 professional experience;

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

(4) A person with an interim license shall take and pass a national PRAXIS examination in audiology. Official documentation of scores shall be sent to the board directly from Educational Testing Services. A person with an interim license shall continue to practice under supervision if a successful score is not achieved. If the applicant is unable to obtain a passing score within twenty-four (24) months, the applicant shall seek board approval to continue to practice.

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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.

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