

STATEMENT OF EMERGENCY
201 KAR 17:034E.

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 17:034E. Requirements for licensure as a Speech-Language Pathology Assistant.

RELATES TO: KRS 334A.030, 334A.033

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: KRS 334A.033, 334A.055, 334A.080(3)

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.033 requires the board to promulgate administrative regulations to set forth requirements for supervision, education and postgraduate professional experience for speech-language pathology assistants. 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 licensure for speech-language pathology assistants.

Section 1. Application for Licensure. Each applicant for licensure as a speech-language pathology assistant shall:

- (1) Submit an "Application for Speech-Language Pathology Assistant", form DPL-SLPA-10, to the board;
- (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. Each applicant for licensure as an SLP-A in Kentucky shall meet the requirements established by this section.

- (1) In order to receive a license to become an SLP-A, the applicant shall possess a bachelor's degree in speech-language pathology or communication disorders, or possess equivalent education, as described in subsection (2) of this section, from a regionally accredited institution, such as the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.
- (2) An applicant shall have equivalent education if the applicant has obtained a bachelor's degree and a minimum of twenty-seven (27) hours in the core areas of communication sciences or disorders including the following:
 - (a) Anatomy and physiology;
 - (b) Phonetics and speech science;
 - (c) Speech and language development;
 - (d) Communication disorders in children;
 - (e) Audiology;
 - (f) Aural rehabilitation; and
 - (g) Intervention for children with communication disorders.

Section 3. Supervision requirements.

- (1) The SLP-A shall function under the supervision of an appropriate supervisor during the period of licensure.
- (2) The supervisor shall design and provide a supervision system that protects pupil welfare and maintains the highest possible standards of quality speech-language pathology services.
- (3) The supervisor may require additional supervision based on the experience of the SLP-A, the pupils served, and the physical or geographic proximity to the supervisor.
- (4) As the supervisory responsibility of the supervisor increases, the direct service responsibilities of the supervisor shall decrease.
- (5) Treatment for the pupils served shall remain the responsibility of the supervisor. The level of supervision required shall be the minimum level necessary for the supervisor to retain direct contact with the pupils.
- (6) Each SLP-A shall be required to receive direct supervision as stated in KRS 334A.033. Supervision shall be adjusted proportionally for less than full-time employment. The supervisor shall have direct contact time with the speech-language pathology assistant as well as with the pupil.
- (7)
 - (a) Direct supervision shall consist of on-site, in-view observation and guidance as a clinical activity is performed.
 - (b) An SLP-A shall be supervised by either:
 1. A speech-language pathologist who holds a Kentucky license; or
 2. A speech-language pathologist who holds Education Professional Standards Board Master's level certification as a teacher of exceptional children in the areas of speech and communication disorders.
- (8) The supervisor shall provide information about the quality of the SLP-A's performance with assigned tasks and verify that clinical activity is limited to tasks specified in the SLP-A's scope of responsibilities.
- (9) Information obtained during direct supervision may include data relative to:
 - (a) Accuracy in implementation of screening, diagnostic, and treatment procedures;
 - (b) Agreement between the assistant and the supervisor on correct or incorrect judgment of target behavior;
 - (c) Accuracy in recording data; and
 - (d) Ability to interact effectively with the pupil.
- (10) Indirect supervision shall be required as stated in KRS 334A.033. Supervision shall be adjusted proportionally for less than full-time employment. Indirect supervision may include:
 - (a) Demonstration;
 - (b) Record review;
 - (c) Review and evaluation of audio or videotaped sessions; or
 - (d) Supervisory conferences that may be conducted by telephone.
- (11) The minimum total of direct and indirect supervision as stated in KRS 334A.033 shall be required for each SLP-A and shall be documented. Additional direct and indirect supervision may be necessary depending on the experience of the assistant and the needs of the pupil.
- (12) An SLP-A shall not provide direct services if a supervising speech-language pathologist cannot be reached by personal contact, phone, pager, or some other immediate means.
- (13) If, for any reason (including maternity leave, illness, or a change of jobs), the supervisor is no longer available to provide the level of supervision stipulated, the speech-language pathology assistant shall not provide service until a fully qualified speech-language pathologist has been designated as the SLP-A's supervisor.

(14) Although more than one (1) supervisor may provide supervision of an SLP-A, a supervisor shall not be listed as the supervisor of record for more than two (2) SLP-As. If multiple supervisors are used, each supervisor shall be responsible for that portion of the caseload that is theirs and each shall sign the "Application for Licensure Speech-Language Pathology Assistant", form DPL-SLPA-10 and "Postgraduate Professional Experience Report and Evaluation for Interim Speech-Language Pathology Assistant", form DPL-SLPA-06, incorporated by reference in 201 KAR 17:025.

Section 4. Within thirty (30) days after completion of postgraduate professional experience, the applicant shall submit a complete "Application for Licensure Speech-Language Pathology Assistant", form DPL-SLPA-10. The applicant's supervisor shall verify the successful completion of postgraduate professional experience by signing the application and by submitting the "Postgraduate Professional Experience Report and Evaluation for Interim Speech-Language Pathology Assistant", form DPL-SLPA-06, incorporated by reference in 201 KAR 17:025.

Section 5. Incorporation by Reference.

(1) The following material is incorporated by reference: "Application for Licensure Speech-Language Pathology Assistant", form DPL-SLPA-10, 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.

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