



# Louisiana Board of Examiners for **SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY & AUDIOLOGY**

**MISSION STATEMENT:** *We exist because the legislature declared that “in order to safeguard the public health, safety, and welfare, to protect the public from incompetent, unscrupulous, and unauthorized persons, and from unprofessional conduct by speech-language pathologists, audiologists, and speech-language pathology assistants, it is necessary to provide regulatory authority over persons offering speech-language pathology and audiology services to the public.”*



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## Recent LBESPA Rules Changes

By: Annette E. Hurley, Ph.D., L-AUD

Changes and edits to the Rules and Regulations for Audiology and Speech-language pathology are necessary to be consistent with changes in academic and certification and scope of practice. Prior to this Rules change, the last change was in 2019. Many of the rule changes involved supervision and continuing education requirements, as detailed on page 3 of this newsletter.

Other changes to note are listed below.

- Section 103 was edited to allow SLP Assistants to engage in the provision of services via telehealth delivery as directed by their supervisor, provided all supervision guidelines are met.

Provisional SLP Assistants may NOT engage in the provision of services via telehealth delivery; however, the individual may function as a facilitator given appropriate training.

- “PL-AUD” was removed as this provisional license does not exist as the doctoral degree is the entry level of profession of practice for audiology. Editorial changes removed “PL-AUD” in all Rule sections.

- Language was added in Section 107 to include university programs that are in “candidacy” for accreditation.

- The 1820 audiology clinical practicum clock hour requirement for audiology was removed, to be consistent with certification standards, equivalent to nine months full-time clinical experience. Clinical experiences must reflect the depth and breadth across the lifespan which is consistent with national certification standards.

- Section 111 provided rules for telehealth registrants for audiology and SLP out of state residents to provide services in Louisiana via telehealth, to reduce barriers to practice in Louisiana.

*Continued on page 4*

# WORKSHOP: The Regulatory Academy Workshop



The Regulatory Academy Workshop: Law, Licensing & Leadership was hosted by the Louisiana Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology and presented by Dale Atkinson and Margo Adams-Larsen of The Atkinson Firm on Friday, February 10, 2023 in Baton Rouge. This is a specialized training for state-based regulatory board members and staff in all aspects of regulatory board functioning, from how boards are legislatively created, role of board members and staff, board administration and operations, functions of board attorneys, legislature, etc.



There were 65 attendees representing 16 boards/state agencies.

- Louisiana Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology
- Louisiana Board of Examiners in Dietetics and Nutrition
- Louisiana State Board of Certified Public Accountants
- Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners
- Louisiana Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors
- Louisiana Board of Drug and Device Distributors

- Louisiana Behavior Analyst Board
- Louisiana Real Estate Appraisers Board
- Louisiana Real Estate Commission
- Louisiana Department of Justice
- Louisiana Bureau of EMS/EMS Certification Commission
- Louisiana Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners
- Louisiana Board of Examiners of Psychologists
- Louisiana State Board of Licensed Professional Counselors
- Louisiana Physical Therapy Board
- Louisiana State Board of Optometry Examiners

The Board values its collaboration with other boards and other regulatory professionals, as it carries out its mission to protect the consumers of Louisiana.

## UPCOMING STATE CONFERENCES TO BE SPONSORED BY LBESPA:

**Louisiana Speech-Language-Hearing Association (LSHA) Conference, June 16-17 (Baton Rouge)**

**Louisiana Academy of Audiology (LAA) Convention, September 14-16 (New Orleans)**

**Speech Pathologists & Audiologists in Louisiana Schools (SPALS), TBD**

# LBESPA's Rules and Regulations have recently been revised as it relates to supervision and continuing education.

Erica A. Chatelain, M.Ed., L-SLP

In regards to supervision, the following has been updated:

- Direct supervision (formerly on-site, in-view observation) is now defined as the supervisor observing the licensee engaging in a specified clinical activity with a patient/client in order to obtain knowledge and provide guidance regarding the supervisee's clinical work. The supervisor shall accomplish this task either by being physically present in the room or through the use of a secure live video, live stream or webcam.
- Full-Time Supervised Professional Employment/Experience – a minimum of 36 weeks engaged in the provision of clinical services. Volunteer services are not acceptable.
- Indirect supervision (formerly alternative observation) is now defined as the utilization of alternative methods, other than direct supervision, to acquire knowledge of a supervisee's clinical work, e.g. review of client folders and record keeping, scheduling, and planning.
- Part-Time Employment/Experience is now defined as a minimum of 15 hours, but less than 30 clock hours per week.
- Part-Time Postgraduate Professional Employment Experience – part-time experience greater than or equal to a minimum of 15 hours per week up to 72 weeks of employment experience.
- Supervised On-the-Job Training – direct supervision hours which have been obtained during paid employment, and documented on the form provided by the board.

Additionally, restrictions were added that individuals may not be supervised by a telehealth registrant or an immediate family member (in addition to those already established in Rule 129.D.). Also, a rule was added to 129.H. that reads "Submission of inaccurate or falsified supervision documentation may result in disciplinary action." 129.H. clarified that 16 hours must be obtained annually for those working full-time, with at least 8 of those hours being direct observation hours.

In regards to continuing education requirements, the requirements have been updated to include that of the 10 hours, 5 shall be educational activities directly related to the scope of practice of the licensee and must be designed to increase the knowledge and skills in the area of licensure.

The Rules for acceptable continuing education (127.K.) have also changed, with the biggest change being:

- Those presentations from AAA, ASHA, LSHA, SPALS, Louisiana Society for Hearing Aid Specialists, etc. must be for presentations that are directly in the area of communication disorders.
- Related topics will require pre-approval.

A similar change has been made for all CE activities; the hours are only considered acceptable if it is directly in the area of communication disorders. Related activities will require pre-approval from the Board. Please note that any workshops and in-services that are university, school, clinic, hospital or state agency sponsored should only include CE content area workshop and in-service time. Documentation of staff development content must be separated from employee meeting activities such as announcements, review of deadlines, event planning, and other non-content area activities. Also, a new rule has been added that licensees may not submit repeated continuing education activities for credit within a 3-year period.

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<https://www.facebook.com/LBESPA/>

- Updated Events
- Important Dates & Reminders
- Renewal Process
- Connect with other licensees



# Remaining Board Meeting Dates:



- **May 5** • **July 21**
- **Sept 22**
- **Dec 1 (New Orleans)**

All meetings will start at 8:30 a.m. at the Board office in Prairieville, with the exception of the one in New Orleans.

\*All board meetings are open to the public.



*Continued From Cover*

## Recent LBESPA Rules Changes

By: **Annette E. Hurley, Ph.D., L-AUD**

- Criminal background checks were added to the Practice Act in 2016 and are now detailed in Rules in Section 113.
- The passing score on the TOEFL must be obtained within the past two years.
- Changes in Section 121 removed assessments without interpretation, as SLP Assistants are not allowed to conduct assessments. Also edited the duties outside of the scope of practice of Assistants to include: conducting evaluations, screen, diagnose or treat clients for feeding and swallowing disorders, cannot demonstrate swallowing strategies or precautions to clients, family or staff.

SLP Assistants may participate in parent conferences, IEPs, case conferences, interdisciplinary team conferences and research projects, with permission and guidance of the supervising SLP. Provisional SLP Assistants may participate in these activities only with the supervising SLP present.

- Additionally, Provisional SLP Assistants may not participate in parent conferences, IEP, IFSP meetings, case conferences, interdisciplinary team conferences, and research projects, unless the supervising SLP is present.

- Section 501 revised the investigation of complaints by assigning a board member consultant to assist in the investigatory process. This prevents any possible bias or appearance of bias by the entire board membership.

- Edits in Sections 503, 505, 507, and 512 added telehealth registrants to disciplinary processes and procedures.

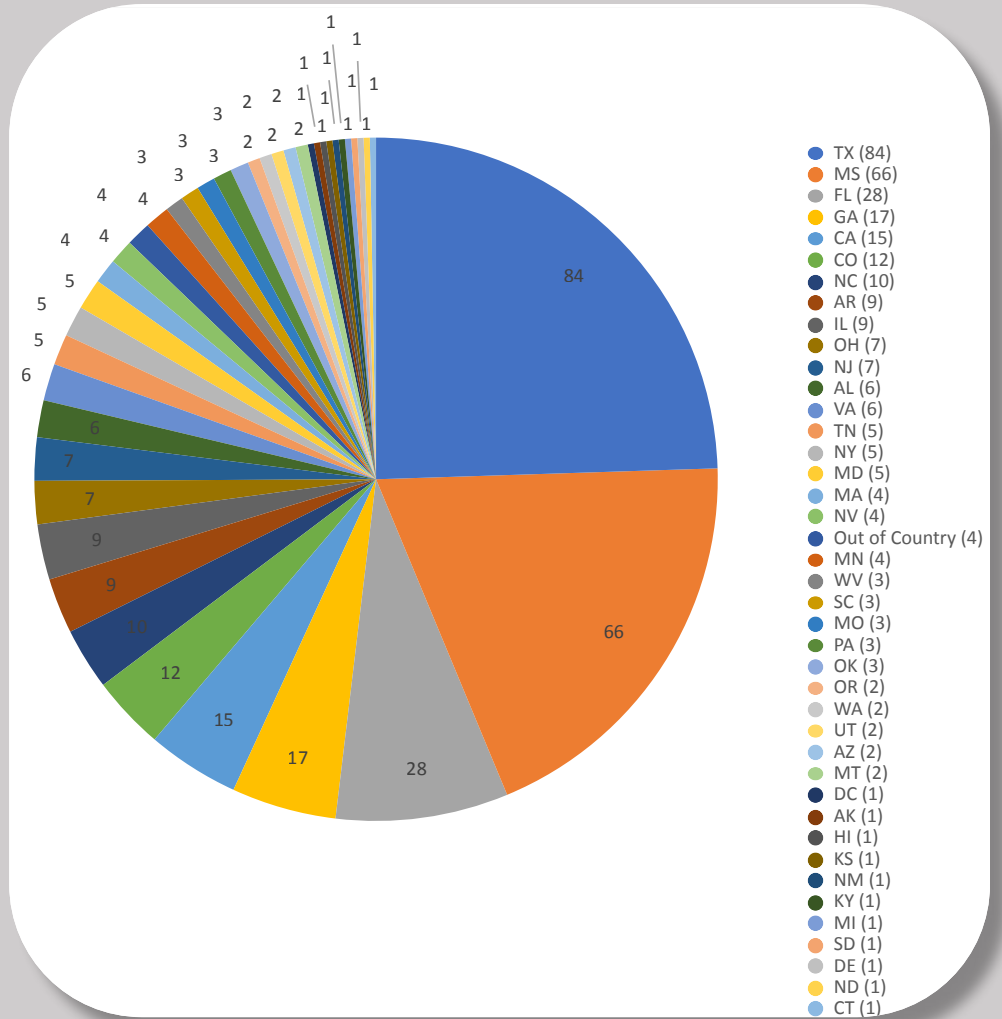
- Changes in Section 701 were completed to update the Code of Ethics to be consistent with the national standards of practice.

The Board received no public comments, and these went into effect on December 20, 2022.



# LBESPA LICENSURE

# BY STATE

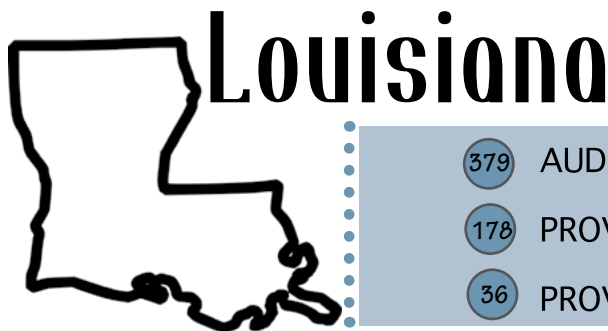


# TELEHEALTH

While telehealth around the world continues to grow, LBESPA took a look at it's state of residence for all licenses issued in Louisiana. The chart below shows that Louisiana has individuals who are licensed throughout the U.S., and even 4 outside of the U.S.

Additionally, the Board has 29 telehealth registrants, who are allowed to practice in Louisiana via telehealth only. 24 of the registrants are Speech-Language Pathologists and 4 are Audiologists. We have seen this number decrease over the years, as it seems that more people would rather hold a Louisiana license vs. a telehealth registration.

We anticipate another shift soon as the licensure compact comes into play. With details still in the works, the compact will grant a privilege to practice to an individual who applies for such and allow them to practice with that privilege in states that are a part of the Audiology & Speech Language Pathology Interstate Compact (ASLP-IC) compact.



## Louisiana Number of licensed professionals in the State of Louisiana

- 379 AUDIOLOGY
- 178 PROV/SLP
- 36 PROV/SLP/ASSISTANT
- 62 RESTRICT SPEECH/PATH
- 247 SLP ASSISTANT
- 3567 SPEECH LANG PATH

# Licensing Compact Update:

## Audiology & Speech Language Pathology Interstate Compact (ASLP-IC)

A few years ago, a profession changing idea was proposed at the National Council of State Boards of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology (NCSB) Conference in Santa Fe, New Mexico. As forward thinking as the idea was, NCSB board members stepped in, including several of which are from Louisiana, and this revolutionary idea began to take shape.

As of March 2023, the ASLP-IC has been adopted by law in 23 states, with legislation pending in 15 states. The adoption has allowed the formation of the ASLP-IC Commission. During 2022, the Commission established committees for Rules, Compliance, and Finance.

The commission that governs the compact is composed of both an Audiology and a Speech-Language Pathology delegate from the Licensure Board in each member state, along with two non-voting ex-officio representatives from professional associations (ASHA, AAA, ADA rotating), the National Council of State Boards of Examiners in SLP/A (NCSB), and 5 executive directors or public members from licensing boards in member states. LBESPA is fortunate to have Glenn Waguespack serve as a delegate, who has also been elected to serve as the Chair of the Finance Committee. Also, Jolie Jones, LBESPA's Executive Director serves as a member of the Finance Committee, as well as being elected as a voting member of the Commission.

Over the last year the various commission committees have been working on reviewing funding agreements establishing an operating budget, further delineating rules and regulations for the operation of the compact, selection of a secretariat to interface between the funding agencies/sources and the commission, a job description for an executive director who will work for the commission, exploration of a database sufficient for full compact operations across all member states, and establishment of the FBI fingerprint and background check process required for the compact. Onboarding of delegates from states that have recently ratified the compact is also a continuing process.

Thanks to the financial support of ASHA, AAA, and ADA in helping to fund the activation of the Compact. All committee meetings are held via Zoom. Future meetings dates and times can be found at <https://aslpcompact.com/commission/>.

### When will the Compact become Operational?

At the time of the initial meeting Commission members were told by representatives from the Council of State Governments that the typical time for setting up an interstate compact is about 18 months depending on funding availability. It is hoped that sometime in 2023 all the pieces will be finalized, with a data system funded so that the commission can begin issuing privileges for interstate practice to licensees in the member states. Setting up a process that will function smoothly and efficiently across all member states and licensure boards and protect consumers and professionals alike is a very complex procedure, and it is important to note that all this work is being done by unpaid volunteers.

### What does the ASLP-IC compact do?

The ASLP-IC is an occupational licensure compact that addresses the increased demand for practitioners to provide, and for consumers to receive, appropriate speech-language pathology and audiology services in concert with prevailing standards. It authorizes both telehealth and in-person practice across state lines without having to become licensed in additional ASLP-IC states. The compact permits audiologists and speech-language pathologists to provide services to populations currently underserved or geographically isolated. The compact also allows military personnel and spouses to more easily maintain their professional license when relocating.

Additionally, the ASLP-IC improves consumer protection across state lines. The compact increases access to care when patients, clients, and/or students relocate or travel to another compact member state. The compact also promotes cooperation between ASLP-IC member states on interstate licensure and regulation requirements such as continuing education. The compact ensures that audiologists and speech language pathologists from other ASLP-IC member states who practice in another compact state, under the privilege granted by the compact, have met acceptable standards of practice. In summary, the ASLP-IC reduces regulatory barriers that negatively impact both consumers and practitioners. The compact does not change a state's scope of practice for audiology or speech-language pathology, but it does ensure the ethical and legal provision of services while still protecting the public.



# RENEWALS BEGINS

*All licenses must be renewed  
by June 30th.*

**Former LBESPA Board  
Member Honored by  
LBESPA & LSHA**



Dr. Kerrilyn Phillips, was honored with a Special Recognition Award by LBESPA, as well as the Louisiana Speech-Language-Hearing Association in 2022. Dr. Phillips was recognized for her work in promoting and developing the interstate licensing compact for audiology and speech-language pathology. Dr. Phillips has served on the drafting team and has worked closely with the Council of State Governments (CSG) in providing states with information regarding the compact. She currently serves as the NCSB representative to the Executive Committee. NCSB is grateful for Dr. Phillips' groundwork and assistance in this important endeavor.

## **SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY & AUDIOLOGY**



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Locally, Dr. Phillips was crucial to the passage of the compact in Louisiana as well as.

**Kerri Phillips, Glenn  
Waguespack, Theresa Rodgers  
at the State Capitol for passage of the ASLP-IC  
in Louisiana. Sept. 2022.**