

SLP-Assistant (SLP-A) / Speech Implementer Comparison Chart

School districts should consider using Speech Language Pathology Assistants (SLP-As) to assist Speech/Language Pathologists to provide speech/language services in the school setting. An SLP-A's role and function is the essentially the same as that of a Speech Implementer; however, there are several distinct differences. The chart provides a comparison of these two service delivery models for school administrators to consider:

	SLP Assistant Rules	Implementer Current Provisions
Credential	MO Board of Healing Arts issued SLP-Assistant Registration	DESE issued Educator Certificate
Scope/Use	Permanent service delivery option available for use as appropriate in any setting.	Temporary, exception-based special education service delivery option. Must be DESE approved ANNUALLY based on inability to recruit/employ certified SLP.
Degree Required	Bachelors Degree in Speech Pathology or equivalent defined as 21 hours in five speech/language areas, 25 hours of observation and 25 hours of clinical assisting or practicum.	Bachelors Degree in Speech Pathology plus Temporary Authorization to Teach (TAC) OR Bachelors Degree in any area of Education with Teaching Certificate.
Supervisor Credential	Board of Healing Arts SLP License; may designate temporary alternate.	Board of Healing Arts SLP License OR DESE SLP Student Services Certificate
Supervision Ratio	SLP can supervise 3.0 Assistants at one time.	No limit on the number of Implementers an SLP can supervise.
Level of Supervision Required	Direct supervision (real-time observing and viewing of assistant & student) for initial student contact. Thereafter 1 hour per week for each assistant or 1 of every 3 student session.	At least one direct contact by supervising SLP for each student. Supervising SLP conducts <u>periodic</u> direct therapy.
Allowed Activities	Assist with the implementation of IEPs, screening, and documenting progress; and other activities such as early intervening services and language-literacy activities with non-disabled students.	Assist with the implementation of IEPs, screening, and documenting progress under the direction of a licensed speech/language pathologist.
Prohibited Activities	Conduct evaluations; determine eligibility; make case selection; interpret data; make referrals; write, develop or modify IEPs.	Conduct evaluations; determine eligibility; write, develop or modify IEPs; interpret data.
Individuals Served	Any individuals served by supervising SLP can be served by SLP-A. No restrictions based on functional deficits or client type.	Implementer credential/role limited to IDEA eligible students. As a certified general education teacher, can provide services to nondisabled students.
Medicaid Billing	Can bill if Missouri Medicaid expands to allow per federal regulations.	Unable to bill Medicaid even if Missouri Medicaid expands to allow assistants.
Retirement System	Position would not require a teaching certificate - participate in PEERS retirement system.	Implementers are required to have a teaching certificate or TAC -- participate in PSRS retirement system.

If a SLP-A is a good fit for your school, please contact the SLP training program near you for support in locating one of their Bachelor's degree graduates. A list of those programs and contact numbers can be found on the MO-CASE (<http://www.mo-case.org/>) and MSHA (<http://www.showmemsha.org/>) websites. While few SLP-As are currently registered, there are significant numbers of individuals with a Bachelor's degree in SLP in Missouri who might be interested in this career option.