



**SPEECH IMPLEMENTER
MODEL
August 2019**

MYTH: The Speech Implementer Model requires very little work on the part of the LEA.

FACT: The requirements for the LEA begin with the application process. The Director of Special Education should work collaboratively with the supervising speech-language pathologist (SLP) to establish the expectations and limitations to the position. Please see the requirements for implementation on DESE's website and in the Standards and Indicators manual, 400 Section.

MYTH: The district only has to submit one application even if using more than one implementer.

FACT: The LEA must have an approved plan for each implementer.

MYTH: The SLP does not have anything to do with students receiving speech and/or language services if the Speech Implementer is the one providing services.

FACT: The supervising SLPs conduct evaluations, determine eligibility, and develop IEPs. They also provide periodic direct therapy sessions as described in written description of the SI model for students assigned to the implementer.

MYTH: The SLP may just have a general outline of the requirements for supervision of the Speech Implementer(s) and direct therapy provided to the student.

FACT: The LEA's Speech Implementer model must include a plan for supervising each speech implementer because the level of supervision may vary depending on the experience and prior training of the implementer. Decisions about periodic direct therapy will be the responsibility of the speech pathologist and must be based on the individual needs of the student. The supervising pathologist is ethically responsible for the practices and activities provided by the implementer. (See Standards and Indicators 400.50-400.80)

MYTH: The application can be submitted anytime during the school year.

FACT: The application may be submitted anytime during the school when the need arises. However, the application must be approved before the implementer can provide speech and language services. LEAs must be prepared to implement IEPs on the first day of school.

MYTH: Continuous advertising of the open SLP position is required until the position is filled with a speech implementer.

FACT: Continuous advertising of the open SLP position is required until the position is filled with a speech-language pathologist or speech-language pathology assistant.