



Speech-Language Pathologist

Evaluation

The school-based Speech-Language Pathologist (SLP) plays a key role in evaluations and determining eligibility for speech and language services. This process involves a careful, systematic approach to assessing a student's communication abilities, identifying needs, and determining whether those needs qualify the student for speech-language therapy under special education laws like the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and Michigan Administrative Rules for Special Education (MARSE). Comprehensive Assessment: The SLP can evaluate all relevant

- areas of communication, including but not limited to:
 - Articulation and phonology (pronunciation of sounds)
 - Receptive language (understanding spoken language)
 - Expressive language (using language to communicate)
 - Pragmatic language (using language in social interactions)
 - Voice and fluency (e.g., stuttering or vocal quality issues)
 - Augmentative Alternative Communication (multi-modal methods of communication)

Therapy

- School-based speech therapy is a specialized form of therapy provided within the educational setting to support students with speech and language difficulties. SLPs work with students who have a range of communication challenges, such as trouble pronouncing words, difficulties with understanding or expressing language, or problems with social communication skills. In a school setting, therapy is typically individualized, meaning goals are tailored to each student's specific needs and are aligned with their academic curriculum to help them succeed in the classroom. SLPs also collaborate with teachers, parents, and other school staff to ensure that students receive support in school environments, helping them build the communication skills needed for academic achievement, social interaction, and overall success.

Case Managers

- The case manager role of a school SLP is multifaceted, blending clinical expertise with administrative and collaborative skills. It involves not only providing direct therapy but also coordinating services, monitoring progress, and ensuring that students receive the necessary support to thrive academically and socially. By managing their caseloads effectively, SLPs contribute to the overall success and well-being of students with speech and language needs, both in the classroom and beyond.



St. Joseph County ISD

SLPs are hired by the ISD and are assigned positions in local school districts throughout the county. They work collaboratively with local district staff as well as other ISD staff

Service delivery models



Speech therapy services may be in-person or virtually provided. They may pull out students to a different location or push in to support in classrooms depending on the need.



Tier 1 + Tier 2 Supports

SLPs are able to participate in student focused meetings. They are able to offer suggestions and strategies for general education teachers to use in their classrooms to support good communication skills!

Resources - Scan!

ASHA : Communication Milestones



MARSE - Speech Language Guidelines



ASHA : Early Identification

