

# Alaska Speech-Language-Hearing Association Survey on SLP Services

1. **What is the name of your district? (Remember, all answers are confidential. We will use your district identification only follow-up with those we haven't heard from, and to let us aggregate districts by size and other characteristics.)**

2. **How does your district provide Speech-Language Pathology services to students who need them? (Check all that apply)**

- 11 We employ Speech-Language Pathologists
- 5 We employ SLP Assistants or Implementers
- 8 We contract with a company in Alaska to provide services in our schools
- 3 We contract with a company from outside Alaska to provide one or more people to work in our district
- 1 We use telepractice

Other (please specify)

Trying telepractice next year (1)  
contract with individuals ((3)

3. **If you provide some services through telepractice, is the service you use based in Alaska or elsewhere?**

- 3 Alaska
- 1 Elsewhere
- 0 Don't know

**4. Why have you chosen the telepractice service model, and how did you choose your service provider?**

- It was the very last alternative. I chose because it was recommended by a SLP.
- no personnel available
- Provide a good service.
- We use the telepractice service model for follow up progress checking. We have the therapist on site quarterly and supplement that with the either video or phone contacts to answer questions and check on progress.

**5. How many students in your district have an Individual Educational Plan that calls for Speech-Language Pathology services?**

- |                                  |                                    |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> 0 none     | <input type="radio"/> 3 26 to 50   |
| <input type="radio"/> 6 1 to 5   | <input type="radio"/> 2 51 to 75   |
| <input type="radio"/> 3 16 to 25 | <input type="radio"/> 5 76 or more |

**6. The questions below ask about how many positions (full time and part time, District employees and contractors) your district had budgeted for, and how many of these positions are currently vacant.**

Numbers in table reflect the total number of positions reported by responding districts

	Number of Speech-Language Pathologists	Number of Assistants or Implementers
How many <b>full-time</b> District employee positions are in your District's budget?	110	19
How many <b>full-time</b> District employee positions are currently vacant?	11	1
How many <b>part-time</b> District employee positions are in your District's budget?	22	5
How many <b>part-time</b> District employee positions are currently vacant?	5	0
How many <b>contract</b> positions are in your District's budget?	16	6
How many <b>contract</b> positions are currently vacant?	0	0

**7. How many of your Assistants/Implementers are registered with the state (Division of Occupational Licensing) as SLPA's?**

- |  |                              |
|--|------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> 6 N/A – we don't use Assistants/Implementers | <input type="radio"/> 0 Some |
| <input type="radio"/> 3 None                                       | <input type="radio"/> 1 Most |
| <input type="radio"/> 2 A few                                      | <input type="radio"/> 3 All  |

**8. Please tell us about how you recruit Speech-Language Pathologists. For each row, tell us if you recruit there, and how useful you find it as a recruiting avenue.**

	My district uses this to recruit SLP's	Very effective--we find all the candidates we need	Somewhat effective--we find some candidates	Not very effective--we find few candidates	Not effective--we don't find candidates
a. University/college placement centers	7	0	2	3	4
b. ASHA or AKSHA (state association)	5	0	1	1	5
c. State and National advertising	8	2	1	1	6
d. Facebook or MySpace	0	0	0	1	2
e. Monster or other job placement sites	1	0	0	1	3
f. Alaska Teacher Placement	9	3	1	2	6
g. Attending Job Fairs in Alaska	9	1	2	2	6
h. Attending Job Fairs in the L48	6	0	1	1	6

**9. Where else does your district recruit for SLP's? How useful are these other ways of recruiting?**

- Through contractors (4)
- Word of mouth (5)
- Share services with other districts. (1)
- Sponsoring interns; Making personal visits to University programs Sending flyers to all University programs (1)
- We have a local SLP, so we are fortunate to be able to recruit locally. (1)

**10. What are the top two causes of vacancies in SLP positions in your district?**

- Lack of SLPs (2)
- Alaska issues: weather, travel, cost, isolation (6)
- Cost/salary competitiveness (5)
- Competing with medical model (1)
- Local competition - variety of work environments to chose from which may offer more flexible hours, pay, preferred medical setting, etc. (1)

## 11. What are the greatest barriers to recruiting new SLP's to work in your district?

- Salary – competitiveness (8)
- Availability (5)
- Location issues (7)

## 12. What would you like state agencies to know about the challenges of recruiting for related services positions, especially SLPs?

- Allowing us to give more than 8 years from outside Alaska might help recruit.
- There needs to be bonuses available to get speech paths and other special education providers to this state and additional bonuses for rural services.
- I would love to contract more with in the state but have limited knowledge of where to recruit.
- It is challenging for small rural districts to accommodate a full-time SLP and other related service positions. Therefore we must rely on itinerant related service personnel. Often weather issues impact their schedules and availability to see students on a regular basis.
- That the Federal statues gave the state the responsibility to attract hard to fill positions. We need their help.
- The certification is too cumbersome. I am currently speaking to an SLP interested in moving here and she is stopped by the certification process. For example, why is an institutional endorsement needed if the SLP has obtained a degree from an accredited university and has ASHA certification? I can understand the need for this recommendation for someone like myself where I am requesting various endorsements for administration and you need to check what areas I am qualified for but with an SLP there is just one area. Many times these are experienced persons with multiple qualifications and have held certification in other states. It becomes extremely frustrating to the persons and to me trying to assist them in this process so they can get in the field and work.
- It is difficult, if not impossible to find qualified people with a master degree and CCC.
- It is very difficult to find highly qualified and effective SLP's.
- It is very expensive for rural Districts.
- That it is a waste of our time since so few applicants are coming forward.
- Does Alaska provide the training for slp assistants now?
- We need good university programs in SLP in Ak.
- I would like the State to offer an SLP program at some Alaskan university. Offer SLP graduates a job and forgive part of their student loan. Establish a "pool" of SLP's that Districts could draw from.
- The state has got to promote post secondary programs. The cost of receiving an SLP degree is prohibitive to those that are interested here. The state should reinstate loan forgiveness to those who want to get their degree. There should be scholarships available to kids graduating to pursue degrees in these special services areas.