



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education

June 19, 2015

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: Steven R. Staples, Superintendent of Public Instruction

SUBJECT: Licensing of Speech-Language Pathologists

As you are aware, the 2014 General Assembly passed [House Bill 373](#) that amended and re-enacted Section 54.1-26.3 of the *Code of Virginia* regarding the licensing of school speech-language pathologists. Effective July 1, 2015, in order to practice speech-language pathology in Virginia public schools, an individual must hold a valid speech-language pathologist license issued by the Virginia Board of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (BASLP). Effective July 1, 2015, a Virginia Board of Education license no longer authorizes an individual to practice speech pathology in the public schools of the Commonwealth. A valid license issued by the BASLP is required.

Individuals are not licensed to practice until they receive notification from the BASLP that their license has been issued. Applications in process are not sufficient for speech-language pathologists to practice. Speech pathologists must have the appropriate and valid BASLP license in hand prior to working. Practicing without the appropriate BASLP license may result in disciplinary action by the BASLP (§54.1-2603). Very serious sanctions can be imposed on speech pathologists practicing without a valid BASLP license. Please ensure that all of your speech pathologists hold the BASLP license *prior* to practicing.

If you have any questions regarding the appropriate license to be held by speech pathologists or need additional information regarding the application and licensure process, please contact the Board of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology at (804) 367-4630. If you have additional questions, please contact Mrs. Patty S. Pitts, assistant superintendent for teacher education and licensure, by e-mail at Patty.Pitts@doe.virginia.gov or by telephone at (804) 371-2522; or Ms. Marie Ireland, specialist for speech-language impairment, by e-mail at Marie.Ireland@doe.virginia.gov or by telephone at (804) 786-9775.

SRS/psp