

## Memorandum

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*Date:* March 17, 2011  
*To:* Special Education and Pupil Services Directors  
*From:* DPI Special Education Team and Teacher Licensing  
*Subject:* Emergency Licensure for Speech and Language Pathology

A number of issues have been raised concerning emergency licenses for speech and language pathologists (SLPs). The purpose of this memorandum is to address those issues.

Based on a policy letter from the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), the department no longer will issue emergency licenses in the area of speech and language pathology. In the *Letter to Goldman*, dated January 27, 2010, OSEP states “under the IDEA implementing regulation at 34 CFR 300.156 (b), related services personnel who deliver services in their discipline or profession must not have had certification or licensure requirements waived on an emergency, temporary, or provisional basis.”

While OSEP policy letters, as in the *Letter to Goldman*, provide guidance which is advisory, the language of the federal regulations is clear:

§300.156(b) *Related services personnel and paraprofessionals*. The qualifications under paragraph (a) of this section must include qualifications for related services personnel and paraprofessionals that—

(2) Ensure that related services personnel who deliver services in their discipline or profession—

(ii) Have not had certification or licensure requirements waived on an emergency, temporary, or provisional basis.

For those SLPs with bachelor’s level degrees, several universities offer online graduate degrees in the area of communicative disorders. Here is a link to this information on the American Speech Language Hearing Association (ASHA) website:

<http://hes.asha.org:8080/EdFind/Masters/MastersSearch.aspx>