



STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
TEACHER EDUCATION AND CERTIFICATION OFFICE
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SUMMARY OF THE SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY ASSISTANT CERTIFICATE

The Speech-Language Pathology Assistant Certificates are issued only at the request of the employing superintendent of an Alabama public school system. The certificate allows the holder to serve only as a Speech-Language Pathology Assistant. With the request for the certificate, the superintendent must agree to ensure supervision of the applicant during every year of employment as a Speech-Language Pathology Assistant. The supervision must be by either a Speech-Language Pathologist who holds at least a valid Alabama Class A (master's degree level) Professional Educator Certificate in speech-language pathology or a special education coordinator/supervisor who holds a valid Alabama Professional Educator Certificate in an area of special education. Supervision will be monitored during Special Education reviews. Failure to comply with the required supervision will be reported to the Teacher Education and Certification Office of the State Department of Education and will result in the denial of requests to issue other Speech-Language Pathology Assistant Certificates for employment in that school system.

Speech-Language Pathology Assistant Certificates are issued at Levels I and II. Degree, coursework, and experience requirements for a Speech-Language Pathology Assistant Certificate bearing the July 1 date of a given year must be met prior to September 1 of that year. If degree, coursework, or experience requirements are met on or after September 1, the certificate will be dated the following July 1.

Certificates	Rank	Valid Period	Renewable
Level I Speech-Language Pathology Assistant	2	3 years	No
Level II Speech-Language Pathology Assistant	2	5 years	Yes

Requirements for the Level I and Level II Speech-Language Pathology Assistant Certificates

1. The Level I certificate requires that the applicant:
 - a. Verify an earned bachelor's degree in speech-language pathology or communication sciences and disorders (speech-language emphasis) from a regionally accredited college or university with an overall grade point average of at least 2.5 on a 4-point scale.
 - b. Verify passing scores on the basic skills assessments of the Alabama Prospective Teacher Testing Program. The passing scores must be achieved no later than the March test date of the scholastic year for which the certificate is to begin validity. For the 2006-2007 and 2007-2008 scholastic years, a subject assessment will not be required for issuance of the certificate.
2. The Level II certificate requires that the applicant:
 - a. Have held a Level I Speech-Language Pathology Assistant Certificate.
 - b. Verify, if a valid Alabama Class A Professional Educator Certificate in an area of special education is not held, having earned 12 semester hours of graduate credit from:
 1. An Alabama state-approved Alternative Class A special education program; or
 2. An American Speech and Hearing Association (ASHA) accredited speech-language pathology master's level program; or
 3. A combination of courses from 1. and 2.
 - c. Verify at least two years (18 months) of satisfactory full-time employment as a Speech-Language Pathology Assistant, in one or more Alabama public school systems, while holding a valid Level I Speech-Language Pathology Assistant Certificate. The employing school system(s) must verify that during each year of the employment, supervision was provided by either a Speech-Language Pathologist who held at least a valid Alabama Class A Professional Educator Certificate in speech-language pathology or a special education coordinator/supervisor who held a valid Alabama Professional Educator Certificate in an area of special education.
 - d. Verify, when implemented, successful completion of the subject assessment of the Alabama Prospective Teacher Testing Program.

Application Procedures for the Level I Certificate

Application packets for the **Level I** Speech-Language Pathology Assistant Certificate may only be submitted by the employing superintendent of an Alabama public school system. The application packet must include:

1. Form APP, Application for Alabama Certification, and the \$20.00 application fee;
2. Supplement SPA, Speech-Language Pathology Assistant Certificate;
3. Official transcript of the earned bachelor's degree in speech-language pathology or communication sciences and disorders (speech-language emphasis) from a regionally accredited college or university with an overall grade point average of 2.5 on a 4-point scale;
4. Verification of passing scores on the basic skills assessments of Alabama Prospective Teacher Testing Program (APTTP) achieved no later than the March test date of the scholastic year for which the certificate is to begin validity. The application packet will be accepted if it contains verification of registration for the basic skills assessments for a test date no later than the March test date of the scholastic year for which the certificate is to begin validity; and
5. Fingerprinting forms and \$49.00 fee (see Fingerprint Requirements below).

Application Procedures for the Level II Certificate

Application packets for the **Level II** Speech-Language Pathology Assistant Certificate may only be submitted by the employing superintendent of an Alabama public school system. The application packet must include:

1. Form APP, Application for Alabama Certification, and the \$20.00 application fee;
2. Supplement SPA, Speech-Language Pathology Assistant Certificate;
3. Official transcript(s) verifying the required 12 semester hours of graduate credit;
4. Verification, when implemented, of successful completion of the subject assessment of the Alabama Prospective Teacher Testing Program; and
5. Supplement(s) EXP verifying the required two years (18 months) of satisfactory full-time employment as a Speech-Language Pathology Assistant, in one or more Alabama public school systems, while holding a valid Level I Speech-Language Pathology Assistant Certificate.

Renewal Requirements

The Level II Speech-Language Pathology Assistant Certificate may be renewed for additional five year periods. The requirements for renewal will be available at a later date.

Fingerprint Requirements

New applicants as well as applicants for additional certification, upgrades, and renewals who have not been cleared by the Alabama Bureau of Investigation (ABI) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) through this office, must submit two fingerprint cards, a Release Form, a Background Review Consent Form, and a separate \$49 nonrefundable fingerprint fee in the form of a cashier's check or money order made payable to the Alabama State Department of Education.

Testing Requirement

Issuance of the Level I Speech-Language Pathology Assistant Certificate requires passing scores on the basic skills assessments of the Alabama Prospective Teacher Testing Program (APTTP). The passing scores must be achieved no later than the March test date of the scholastic year for which the certificate is to begin validity. Information about the APTTP may be obtained at internet websites www.alsde.edu, or www.act.org/alabamapttp (for basic skills assessments), or www.ets.org/praxis (for subject matter assessments), or by contacting the teacher testing staff in the Teacher Education and Certification Office at (334) 242-9935 or apttp@alsde.edu.

This summary provides general information and is not all inclusive.

Applicants must meet requirements in effect on the date the application is received in the Teacher Education and Certification Office. Certification regulations contained in this information sheet are subject to change.