

HB 108 – Medical Specialists in Public Schools

Sponsored By: Representative Carol Spackman Moss

This bill permits an LEA to adopt a separate salary schedule for medical specialists in public schools. This includes audiologists, speech-language pathologists, mental health practitioners, nurses, occupational therapists, and physical therapists.

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1.0-1.0 Oversupply, 2.0-2.0 Minimal Shortage, 3.0-3.9 Moderate Shortage, 4.0+ Critical Shortage

Speech Language Pathologists	4.0 Critical Shortage
School Psychologists	4.0 Critical Shortage
Communication Disorders-audiology	3.4 Moderate Shortage
School Social Worker	3.3 Moderate Shortage

According to the Utah Speech-Language Hearing Association:

- All Speech-Language Pathologists (SLPs) are required to have **master's degrees** to enter the profession.
- The four universities in Utah who offer degrees in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology, combined, provide approximately **100 graduates** each year. Unfortunately, **over 50% leave** the state or work in a different setting than public schools, often due to salary and caseload size.
- ASHA 2016 Schools Survey reported a median monthly caseload size of 48 students per month. In Utah, SLPs have reported caseload sizes of 60, with several reporting **80 and upwards to over 100 students**.
- USBE attempted to alleviate a shortage of SLPs by creating a certification called Speech Language Technicians. This position is not recognized by ASHA and it has not alleviated the critical shortage of SLPs. Due to the 20 – 30% direct supervision required by SLPs; **it is not a cost-effective solution**.

