

**Arkansas Department of Education**  
**Rules Governing Eligibility and Financial Incentives**  
**For Certified Speech-Language Pathologists**  
Draft Proposal March 2010

**1.00 Regulatory Authority**

- 1.01 These rules shall be known as the Department of Education (Department) Rules Governing Certified Speech-Language Pathologists.
- 1.02 These rules are enacted under the State Board of Education's (Board) authority pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. §§ 6-11-105 and 6-17-413.

**2.00 Purpose**

- 2.01 The purposes of these rules are to ensure the availability and retention of certified speech-language pathologists by providing additional compensation for speech-language pathologists holding a National Certificate of Clinical Competence in Speech Language Pathology from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

**3.00 Definitions**

For the purposes of these rules, the following terms shall mean:

- 3.01 "Certified speech- language pathologist" means a speech-language pathologist who:
  - 3.01.1 Has a master's degree, which includes medical-based training;
  - 3.01.2 Has completed a one (1) year clinical fellowship;
  - 3.01.3 Has passed the specialty area of the National Teachers Examination; and
  - 3.01.4 Holds a Certificate of Clinical Competence in Speech-Language Pathology from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

**4.00 Payment of Bonuses for Speech-Language Pathologists**

- 4.01 The Department shall pay a yearly incentive bonus of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) to a certified speech-language pathologist who:
  - 4.01.1 Holds an Arkansas teaching license in speech-language pathology;
  - 4.01.2 Is a full-time employee of an Arkansas education service cooperative or public school district as a speech-language pathologist at the time of receiving the bonus;
  - 4.01.3 Is not considered a purchased service contractor, but may be employed under a teacher contract subject to renewal under Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-1506.

## **5.00 Monitoring for Speech-Language Pathologists**

- 5.01 The local public school district that employs a speech-language pathologist must verify to the Department annually the employment status of that speech-language pathologist.
- 5.02 A speech-language pathologist shall not receive a yearly bonus if the person leaves the full-time employment of an Arkansas public school district.

## **6.00 Funding for Speech-Language Pathologists**

- 6.01 Bonuses paid to a certified speech-language pathologist shall be paid from the funds appropriated and available for bonuses to speech-language pathologist.
- 6.01.1 If sufficient funds are not available to pay the full amount of the bonus to each certified speech-language pathologist as provided under this section, the Department may reduce the amount of the bonus for each qualified recipient, proportionately as necessary to provide a bonus to each qualified speech-language pathologist in an equal amount.
- 6.01.2 The cost and expenses related to training for or acquisition of the Certificate of Clinical Competence in Speech-Language Pathology from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association shall not be funded through the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards program created under this section and Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-412 and shall be the responsibility of the certified speech-language pathologist.
- 6.01.3 Although a certified speech-language pathologist entitled to a bonus will hold a valid Arkansas teaching license in speech-language pathology, references to "teacher" under this section shall mean a classroom teacher as defined under Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-412(a)(1) who are in the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards program but not certified speech-language pathologists.