

The Pennsylvania Department of Education is offering webinars on June 25, 2015 to provide information about the new Educational Specialist certification in Speech Language Pathology. There are two sessions: one designed for certifying officers, Human Resource specialists and Chief School Administrators; the other for licensed Speech Language Pathologists who may be interested in obtaining the school certification. Please forward this invitation to speech language pathologists to help us reach potential applicants. Webinar details provided by PSHA follows.

What does the new PDE Educational Specialist Certification in SLP mean for you?

There are now two pathways for speech-language pathologists in Pennsylvania to obtain certification to work in schools. In addition to the Teacher Certification - Speech and Language Impaired PK - 12, PDE has added the Educational Specialist Certification - Speech and Language Pathologist PK - 12.

These two certification types are similar in many ways but do have significant differences. Two major differences are that the new certification provides recognition of the fundamental differences between the professions of speech-language pathology and teaching, and an avenue for professionally licensed Pennsylvania speech-language pathologists to become certified to work in the schools.

The PDE webinar on the new certification and what it entails, being offered through PSHA on June 25, 2015, will provide accurate and timely information to SLPs throughout the Commonwealth.

To help facilitate the webinar, we are soliciting questions from speech-language pathologists to assist PDE in developing their presentation. If you or other SLPs you know have questions you want addressed, please email them to the PSHA Office at psha@psha.org by Thursday, May 28.

To register for the webinar, please visit the PSHA website, <https://www.psha.org/professional-development/pde-specialist-certification.html>. **Cost for PSHA members is FREE and non-members are \$25.** Act 48 Credits will be offered for this webinar. *Please note that the webinar is limited to the first 85 registrants.*

There will be two one-hour webinars available that day:

- 1:00 pm will be geared to higher education SLP preparation program administrators to address the process for students to be eligible to apply for both the teacher (Instructional 1) and educational specialist in SLP certificates; explain the differences between the two certificates; and explain the program requirements.
- 4:00 pm will be geared to currently licensed SLPs who want to obtain the educational specialist in SLP certification and will provide an introduction to TIMS and explain the "nuts & bolts" of the process to get certified.

For more information, or if you have any questions, please contact the PSHA Office, psha@psha.org.
