

**July 7, 2026
Board Room 4
10:00 a.m.**

Agenda
**Virginia Board of Audiology &
Speech-Language Pathology**
Full Board Meeting

Call to Order – Lisa G. Wallace-Davis, OD, Chair

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- Welcome
- Emergency Egress
- Mission Statement

Ordering of Agenda – Dr. Wallace-Davis

Public Comment – Dr. Wallace-Davis

The Board will receive all public comments related to agenda items at this time. The Board will not receive comments on any regulatory process for which a public comment period has closed or any pending or closed complaint or disciplinary matter.

Approval of Minutes – Dr. Wallace-Davis

Pages 2-5

- April 21, 2026

Agency Director's Report – Dr. David E. Brown, DC

Legislative/Regulatory Report – Mr. Matt Novak

Pages 6-26

- Current Regulatory Actions (**p 6**)
- Proposed SLPA Regulations (**pp 7-26**)

Board Counsel's Report – Mr. Brent Saunders

Chair's Report – Dr. Wallace-Davis

Staff Reports

Page 27

Executive Director's Report – Ms. Moss

- Update on ASLP-IC Licensure Compact – Ms. Moss
- Outreach
- Licensing and discipline statistics

Licensing report and statistics – Ms. Laura Jackson

Discipline report and statistics – Ms. Claire Foley

New Business – Dr. Wallace-Davis

Next Business Meeting – Dr. Wallace-Davis/Ms. Moss

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- December 7, 2026
- 2027 Calendar

Meeting Adjournment – Dr. Wallace-Davis

MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to ensure safe and competent patient care by licensing health professionals, enforcing standards of practice, and providing information to health care practitioners and the public.

Draft Meeting Minutes
Board of Audiology &
Speech-Language Pathology
Full Board Meeting
April 21, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.

Call to Order

The April 21, 2026, Virginia Board of Audiology & Speech-Language Pathology full board meeting was called to order at 9:04 a.m. at the Department of Health Professions (DHP), Perimeter Center, 9960 Mayland Drive, 2nd Floor, Board Room 3, Henrico, Virginia 23233.

Presiding Officer

Lisa G. Wallace-Davis, OD

Members Present

Melissa A. McNichol, AuD, CCA-A
Jennifer Radford Gay, MS, CCC-SLP
Bethany Rose, AuD
Wayne Shaia, MD (joined at 9:25 a.m.)
Laura H. Vencill, MS, CCC-SLP
James Wells, RPh

Staff Present

David E. Brown, DC, Director, DHP
Kelli G. Moss, Executive Director
Claire C. Foley, JD, Deputy Executive Director
Matt Novak, Agency Regulatory Coordinator
M. Brent Saunders, JD, Senior Assistant Attorney General, Board Counsel
Laura L. Jackson, MSHSA, Board Administrator
Laura D. Paasch, Senior Licensing & Operations Specialist

Public Present

No member of the public were present.

Establishment of Quorum

Six out of seven board members were present in the Richmond office during the entire meeting and the seventh board member joined during the meeting, constituting a quorum for conducting business.

Ordering of Agenda

Dr. Wallace-Davis opened the floor to any changes to the agenda. Hearing none the agenda was accepted as presented.

Public Comment

Ms. Moss reported there was no public comment provided.

Approval of Minutes

Dr. Wallace-Davis opened the floor to any additions or corrections to the draft minutes from the December 9, 2025, full board meeting. Hearing no additions or corrections, the minutes were approved as presented.

Agency Director's Report

Dr. Brown provided an overview of the roles and responsibilities of Board members, emphasizing that, while changes in administration and political leadership occur, the Board's role remains the same: to protect the public. He explained that Board members are part of the executive branch and that the Governor's position on legislation represents the Board's position.

Drawing on his prior experience as a member of the Board of Medicine, Dr. Brown acknowledged the significant effort required to serve on the Board and stressed that the value of the experience depends on the commitment invested. He reminded members that their primary goal is public protection and cautioned against conflicts of interest when serving in leadership roles within professional associations. He reiterated that individual members cannot speak on behalf of the Board and should avoid providing unofficial guidance on practice matters. Dr. Brown encouraged members to rely on staff for support, noting that active engagement in board organizations is beneficial for networking and knowledge sharing. He concluded by expressing appreciation for the Board's executive staff and their efforts to make the Board members' experience productive and positive.

Legislative/Regulatory Report

Mr. Novak reported that there was no legislation from the 2026 General Assembly directly affecting the Board and shared the board's regulatory activity update for proposed regulations to implement the ASLP Interstate Compact (ASLP-IC) and for exempt regulatory action to correct references not changed during a previous action.

Consideration of Petition for Rulemaking

Mr. Novak provided a summary of the public comment received from the American Academy of Audiology and public comments from TownHall regarding the Petition for Rulemaking based on 18VAC30-21-60, Qualifications for initial Licensure, Section A.

A **MOTION** was made by Dr. Rose to adopt the petition and initiate rulemaking. The motion was seconded by Dr. McNichol and carried unanimously.

Board Counsel's Report

Mr. Saunders did not provide a report.

Chair's Report

Dr. Wallace-Davis did not provide a report.

Staff Reports

Executive Director's Report

Ms. Moss provided an update on the ASLP-IC, noting that Ms. Gay and Dr. Rose are Virginia's delegates. She stated that 37 jurisdictions have enacted legislation to join the ASLP-IC and that Compact Connect is operational as of October 28, 2025. She stated four additional states have active legislation, and three states are currently issuing and accepting privileges - Louisiana, Ohio and West Virginia. She reported that board staff will continue to post ASLP-IC updates and information on its website as it becomes available, and that Virginia will begin accepting and issuing privileges after its regulations are finalized and effective. She noted staff are currently working on resolving the issue with the FBI accepting the agency's statutory authority to request criminal background checks, which are required by the ASLP-IC, and that it has amended its rules to allow participation by jurisdictions that demonstrate a good-faith effort to comply with this requirement.

Ms. Moss provided information on educational outreach, reporting that she had conducted four virtual presentations in the last six months, which included presentations to students at Shenandoah University, Old Dominion University and the University of Virginia. She reported that she also presented at the March 2026 annual meeting of Speech-Language Hearing Association of Virginia (SHAV). Ms. Moss expressed appreciation for the opportunities provided to board staff to connect with licensees, applicants and the public.

Ms. Moss is working with board staff on a board newsletter to be disseminated biannually in the Spring and Fall of the year. The first newsletter will be prepared to post to the Board's webpage in May.

Licensing report and statistics

Ms. Jackson provided an update to the February 2026 snapshot of the board's licensing statistics:

- 15 Audiologist licenses, 17 Provisional SLP licenses, 17 School SLP licenses and 188 SLP licenses for a total of 234 licenses issued.

Ms. Jackson also reported that Senior Licensing and Operations Specialist Laura Paasch attained 100% customer satisfaction for the previous period with no complaints.

Discipline report and statistics

Ms. Foley provided an update to the February 2026 snapshot of open and closed discipline cases:

- 18 open cases as of April 17, 2026.

Draft Meeting Minutes
April 21, 2026 - Audiology & Speech-Language Pathology Board Meeting

New Business

Ms. Moss presented Dr. McNichol with a plaque recognizing her eight years of service on the board. She noted that during each of those years, Dr. McNichol also served as an officer, either as board chair or vice chair. The Board expressed its appreciation of Dr. McNichol's leadership.

Next Meeting

Ms. Moss announced the next full board meeting is scheduled for July 7, 2026, and reviewed the meeting calendar for the remainder of the calendar year.

Adjournment

With no objection, Dr. Wallace-Davis adjourned the meeting at 9:30 a.m.

Kelli G. Moss
Executive Director

Board of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology
Current Regulatory Actions
As of June 25, 2026

In the Governor's Office

None.

In the Secretary's Office

VAC	Stage	Subject Matter	Submitted from agency	Time in current location	Notes
18VAC30-21	Proposed	Implementation of the ASLP Compact	12/12/2025	85 days	Enters Virginia into the ASLP Compact.

In the Department of Planning and Budget

VAC	Stage	Subject Matter	Submitted from agency	Time in current location	Notes
18VAC30-21	Fast-Track	Addition of ABA certification as an acceptable pathway to obtain licensure	4/28/2026	21 days	Result of a petition for rulemaking

In the Office of the Attorney General

None.

Recently effective or awaiting publication

VAC	Stage	Subject Matter	Submitted for publication	Effective Date	Notes
18VAC30-21	Final	Regulatory clean-up of section 131	5/18/2026	6/17/2026	Corrects references that were not changed in a previous action.

Action Item: Consideration of Exempt Regulatory Action to License Speech-Language Pathology Assistants

Included in your Agenda Package:

- Draft exempt changes to 18VAC30-21 to license SLPAs;
- Chapter 649 of the 2025 General Assembly

Action Needed:

- Motion to adopt exempt regulatory changes to 18VAC30-21 to license speech-language pathology assistants.

Project 8627 - Exempt Final

Board of Audiology And Speech-Language Pathology

Licensure of speech-language pathology assistants

18VAC30-21-10. Definitions.

A. The words and terms "audiologist," "board," "practice of audiology," "practice of speech-language pathology," "speech-language disorders," and "speech-language pathologist" when used in this chapter shall have the meanings ascribed to them in § 54.1-2600 of the Code of Virginia.

B. The following words and terms when used in this chapter shall have the following meanings unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

"ABA" means the American Board of Audiology.

"Active practice" means a minimum of 160 hours of professional practice as an audiologist or speech-language pathologist for each 12-month period immediately preceding application for licensure. Active practice may include supervisory, administrative, educational, research, or consultative activities or responsibilities for the delivery of such services.

"ASHA" means the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

"Client" means a patient or person receiving services in audiology or speech-language pathology.

"Direct supervision" means the in-view observation and guidance by a licensed speech-language pathologist of a speech-language pathology assistant while such speech-language pathology assistant performs an assigned activity.

"Indirect supervision" means the monitoring or reviewing of activities performed by a speech-language pathology assistant by a licensed speech-language pathologist, excluding observation and guidance provided during the provision of direct services to a student, patient, or client.

"Limited cerumen management" means the identification and removal of cerumen from the cartilaginous outer one-third portion of the external auditory canal in accordance with minimum standards and procedures set forth in this chapter.

"School speech-language pathologist" means a person licensed pursuant to § 54.1-2603 of the Code of Virginia to provide speech-language pathology services solely in public school divisions.

"Supervision" means that the audiologist or speech-language pathologist is responsible for the entire service being rendered or activity being performed, is available for consultation, and is providing regular monitoring and documentation of clinical activities and competencies of the person being supervised.

18VAC30-21-20. Required licenses.

A. There shall be separate licenses for ~~the practices of audiology and speech-language pathology~~ audiologists, speech-language pathologists, school speech-language pathologists, and speech-language pathology assistants. It is prohibited for any person to practice as an audiologist ~~or a speech-language pathologist, or speech-language pathology assistant~~ unless the person has been issued the appropriate license.

B. A licensee shall provide a copy of his license upon request.

18VAC30-21-40. Fees required.

A. The following fees shall be paid as applicable for licensure:

1. Application for audiology or speech-language pathology license	\$135
2. Application for school speech-language pathology license	\$70
<u>3. Application for licensure as a speech-language pathology assistant</u>	<u>\$50</u>
3. <u>4.</u> Verification of licensure requests from other states	\$20

4. <u>5.</u> Annual renewal of audiology or speech-language pathology license	\$75
5. <u>6.</u> Late renewal of audiology or speech-language pathology license	\$25
6. <u>7.</u> Annual renewal of school speech-language pathology license	\$40
7. <u>8.</u> Late renewal of school speech-language pathology license	\$15
<u>9. Annual renewal as a speech-language pathology assistant</u>	<u>\$30</u>
<u>10. Late renewal as a speech-language pathology assistant</u>	<u>\$15</u>
8. <u>11.</u> Reinstatement of audiology or speech-language pathology license	\$135
9. <u>12.</u> Reinstatement of school speech-language pathology license	\$70
<u>13. Reinstatement of speech-language assistant license</u>	<u>\$50</u>
10. <u>14.</u> Duplicate wall certificate	\$25
11. <u>15.</u> Duplicate license	\$5
12. <u>16.</u> Handling fee for returned check or dishonored credit card or debit card	\$50
13. <u>17.</u> Inactive license renewal for audiology or speech-language pathology	\$40
14. <u>18.</u> Inactive license renewal for school speech-language pathology	\$20
<u>19. Inactive license renewal for speech-language pathology assistants</u>	<u>\$15</u>
15. <u>20.</u> Application for provisional license	\$50
16. <u>21.</u> Renewal of provisional license	\$25

B. Fees shall be nonrefundable.

18VAC30-21-50. Application requirements for provisional licensure or licensure as an audiologist or speech-language pathologist.

A. A person seeking a provisional license or licensure as an audiologist, a speech-language pathologist, or a school speech-language pathologist shall submit:

1. A completed and signed application;
2. The applicable fee prescribed in 18VAC30-21-40, or in the case of an application for licensure as an audiologist, a speech-language pathologist, or a school speech-language pathologist issued a provisional license pursuant to 18VAC30-21-70 A, the difference between the provisional licensure fee and the application licensure fee;
3. Verification of the status of the license or certification from each United States jurisdiction in which licensure or certification is held or has ever been held; and
4. A current report from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services National Practitioner Data Bank.

B. An incomplete application package shall be retained by the board for a period of one year. If an application is not completed within the year, an applicant shall reapply and pay a new application fee.

18VAC30-21-60. ~~Qualifications for initial~~ Initial licensure as an audiologist, speech-language pathologist, or school speech-language pathologist.

A. The board may grant an initial license to an applicant for licensure in audiology or speech-language pathology who:

1. Holds a current and unrestricted Certificate of Clinical Competence issued by ASHA; or
2. Submits evidence of the following:

- a. Documentation of graduation from a program accredited by the Council on Academic Accreditation of ASHA or an equivalent accrediting body recognized by the board;
- b. Passage of the qualifying examination from an accrediting body recognized by the board; and
- c. Evidence of six months of practice pursuant to a provisional license as described in 18VAC30-21-70 and submission of recommendation for licensure from the applicant's supervisor during practice as a provisional licensee.

B. The board may grant a license to an applicant as a school speech-language pathologist who holds a master's degree in speech-language-pathology.

C. The board may refuse to issue a license to any applicant who has been determined to have committed an act in violation of 18VAC30-21-160.

18VAC30-21-61. Initial licensure as a speech-language pathology assistant.

An applicant for initial licensure as a speech-language pathology assistant shall submit a completed application and fee along with evidence of the following:

1. Completion of a board-approved eligibility pathway required by § 54.1-2620 C of the Code of Virginia;
2. Completion of a minimum of 100 hours of supervised clinical experience under the direct supervision of a licensed speech-language pathologist, to include at least 80 hours of direct services and at least 20 hours of indirect services; and
3. Completion of three one-hour prerequisite courses from an approved professional development provider, academic clinical practicum program, or employer provided training, on each of the following topics:

- a. Ethics;

b. Universal safety precautions; and

c. Patient confidentiality.

18VAC30-21-70. Provisional licensure of audiologists and speech-language pathologists.

A. ~~Provisional license to qualify for initial licensure.~~ An applicant for licensure as an audiologist or speech-language pathologist may be issued a provisional license in order to obtain clinical experience for initial licensure in Virginia. The applicant shall submit documentation that the applicant has:

1. Passed the qualifying examination from an accrediting body recognized by the board;
and

2. Either:

a. For provisional licensure in audiology, successfully completed all the didactic coursework required for the doctoral degree as documented by a college or university whose audiology program is accredited by the Council on Academic Accreditation of ASHA or an equivalent accrediting body as recognized by the board; or

b. For provisional licensure in speech-language pathology, submission of documentation of graduation or evidence that the applicant successfully completed all the didactic coursework required for a graduate program in speech-language pathology as documented by a college or university whose program is accredited by the Council on Academic Accreditation of ASHA or an equivalent accrediting body as recognized by the board.

B. Provisional license to qualify for endorsement or reentry into practice. An applicant may be issued a provisional license in order to qualify for licensure by endorsement pursuant to 18VAC30-21-80, reactivation of an inactive license pursuant to subsection C of 18VAC30-21-110, or reinstatement of a lapsed license pursuant to subsection B of 18VAC30-21-120.

All provisional licenses shall expire 24 months from the date of issuance and may be renewed for an additional 12 months by submission of a renewal form and payment of a renewal fee. Renewal of a provisional license beyond 36 months shall be for good cause shown.

C. The holder of a provisional license in audiology shall only practice under the supervision of a licensed audiologist, and the holder of a provisional license in speech-language pathology shall only practice under the supervision of a licensed speech-language pathologist. The provisional licensee shall be responsible and accountable for the safe performance of those direct client care tasks to which the provisional licensee has been assigned.

D. Licensed audiologists or speech-language pathologists providing supervision shall:

1. Have an active, current license and at least three years of active practice as an audiologist or speech-language pathologist prior to providing supervision;
2. Document the frequency and nature of the supervision of provisional licensees;
3. Be responsible and accountable for the assignment of clients and tasks based on assessment and evaluation of the provisional licensee's knowledge and skills; and
4. Monitor clinical performance and intervene if necessary for the safety and protection of the clients.

E. The identity of a provisional licensee shall be disclosed to the client prior to treatment and shall be made a part of the client's file.

18VAC30-21-80. Qualifications for licensure by endorsement.

A. An applicant for licensure in audiology or speech-language pathology who has been licensed in another United States jurisdiction may apply for licensure in Virginia in accordance with application requirements in 18VAC30-21-50 and shall submit documentation of current active and unrestricted licensure in another United States jurisdiction and either:

1. Evidence of one year of active practice over the past three years; or

2. Evidence of six months of practice pursuant to a provisional license as described in 18VAC30-21-70 and submission of recommendation for licensure from the applicant's supervisor during practice as a provisional licensee.

B. The board may refuse to issue a license to any applicant who has been determined to have committed an act in violation of § 54.1-2623 of the Code of Virginia or 18VAC30-21-160.

18VAC30-21-100. Continuing education requirements for renewal of an active license.

A. ~~In order to~~ To renew an active license as an audiologist, speech-language pathologist, or school speech-language pathologist, a licensee shall complete at least 10 hours of continuing education prior to the renewal date each year.

B. To renew an active license as a speech-language pathology assistant, a licensee shall complete at least [5] hours of continuing education prior to the renewal date each year.

C. One hour of the ~~40~~ continuing education hours required for annual renewal may be satisfied through delivery of professional services, without compensation, to low-income individuals receiving health services through a local health department or a free clinic organized in whole or primarily for the delivery of those services. One hour of continuing education may be credited for three hours of providing such volunteer services, as documented by the health department or free clinic.

~~B-~~ D. Continuing education shall be activities, programs, or courses related to audiology or speech-language pathology, depending on the license held, and offered or approved by a board-recognized, accredited sponsor or organization.

~~C-~~ E. If the licensee is dually licensed by the board as an audiologist and speech-language pathologist, a total of no more than 15 hours of continuing education are required for renewal of both licenses with a minimum of 7.5 contact hours in each profession.

~~D.~~ F. A licensee shall be exempt from the continuing education requirements for the first renewal following the date of initial licensure in Virginia ~~under~~ pursuant to 18VAC30-21-60 or 18VAC30-21-[SLPA initial licensure regulation].

~~E.~~ G. The licensee shall retain ~~all~~ continuing education documentation for a period of three years following the renewal of an active license. Documentation from the sponsor or organization shall include the title of the course, the name of the sponsoring organization, the date of the course, and the number of hours credited.

~~F.~~ H. The board may grant an extension of the deadline for continuing education requirements for up to one year for good cause shown upon a written request from the licensee prior to the renewal date of each year.

~~G.~~ I. The board may grant an exemption for all or part of the requirements for circumstances beyond the control of the licensee, such as temporary disability, mandatory military service, or officially declared disasters.

~~H.~~ J. The board may periodically conduct an audit for compliance with continuing education requirements. Licensees selected for an audit conducted by the board shall provide all supporting documentation within 30 days of receiving notification of the audit.

~~I.~~ K. Failure to comply with these requirements may subject the licensee to disciplinary action by the board.

18VAC30-21-110. Inactive licensure; reactivation and reinstatement ~~for audiologists, speech-language pathologists, or school speech-language pathologists.~~

A. An audiologist, speech-language pathologist, ~~or school speech-language pathologist, or speech-language pathology assistant~~ who holds a current, unrestricted license in Virginia may, upon a request on the renewal application and submission of the required fee, be issued an inactive license. The holder of an inactive license shall not be required to maintain continuing

education requirements and shall not be entitled to perform any act requiring a license issued by the board to practice ~~audiology or speech-language pathology~~ in Virginia.

B. A licensee whose license has been inactive or has lapsed and who requests reactivation or reinstatement of an active license shall file an application, pay the prescribed fee, which, for reactivation of an inactive license, shall be the difference between the inactive and active renewal fees for the current year, and provide documentation of:

1. Either:

- a. Current certification issued by ASHA or ABA; or
- b. Completion of ~~40~~ continuing education hours equal to the requirement for the number of years in which the license has been inactive, not to exceed 30 contact hours for audiologists, speech-language pathologists, or school speech-language pathologists and not to exceed 15 contact hours for speech-language pathology assistants; and

2. A current report from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services National Practitioner Data Bank.

C. The board may deny a request for reactivation to any licensee who has been determined to have committed an act in violation of § 54.1-2623 of the Code of Virginia or 18VAC30-21-160.

18VAC30-21-140. Supervisory responsibilities; supervision of ~~unlicensed~~ assistants.

~~A. Responsibility of a licensee.~~

1. A. A licensed audiologist who supervises unlicensed assistants shall document such supervision, shall be held fully responsible for their performance and activities, and shall ensure that they perform only those activities that do not constitute the practice of audiology and that are commensurate with their level of training.

2. ~~B.~~ A licensed speech-language pathologist who supervises ~~unlicensed~~ speech-language pathology assistants shall document such supervision, ~~shall be held fully responsible for their performance and activities, and~~ shall ensure that they speech-language pathology assistants only perform only those activities that do not constitute the practice of speech-language pathology activities that fall within the statutory scope of practice of a speech-language pathology assistant included in § 54.1-2621 of the Code of Virginia and that are commensurate with their the speech-language pathology assistant's level of training.

~~a. A speech-language pathologist shall not supervise an assistant without the speech-language pathologist's knowledge and consent by the assistant and the licensee documented prior to assumption of supervisory responsibilities.~~

~~b.~~ The frequency in which the speech-language pathologist personally delivers treatment or services to a client who is receiving some services from an assistant shall be up to the professional judgment of the speech-language pathologist and shall be determined by the treatment needs of the client, the type of services being provided, and the setting in which the client is being served, but shall occur at least every 30 days.

3. ~~C.~~ The identity of the ~~unlicensed~~ any assistant shall be disclosed to the client prior to treatment and shall be made a part of the client's file.

~~B. Qualifications of a speech-language pathologist assistant.~~

~~1. A person acting as a speech-language pathologist assistant shall have:~~

- ~~a. A bachelor's degree or associate's degree and documented training by a licensed speech-language pathologist in topics related to the client population to be served; or~~
- ~~b. Employment as a speech-language pathologist assistant in a United States jurisdiction within the last five years preceding July 27, 2016.~~

~~2. A speech-language pathologist supervising an assistant shall be responsible for determining that the knowledge, skills, and clinical experience of the assistant are~~

~~sufficient to ensure competency to perform all tasks to which the assistant is assigned. The speech language pathologist shall document competency after training and direct observation of the assistant's performance of such tasks, and a record of skills and competencies shall be maintained.~~

~~C. Scope of practice of a speech language pathologist assistant. After demonstration and documentation of competency for the duties to be assigned, an assistant shall only engage in those duties planned, designed, and supervised by a licensed speech language pathologist, to include the following:~~

- ~~1. Assist with speech, language, and hearing screenings without clinical interpretation of results.~~
- ~~2. Assist during assessment of a client exclusive of administration or interpretation.~~
- ~~3. Perform activities for each session that are routine and do not require professional judgment, in accordance with a plan developed and directed by the speech language pathologist who retains the professional responsibility for the client.~~
- ~~4. Document a client's performance and report information to the supervising speech language pathologist.~~
- ~~5. Assist with programming augmentative and alternative communication devices and assist the client in repetitive use of such devices.~~
- ~~6. Sign or initial informal treatment notes and, upon request, co-sign formal documents with the supervising speech language pathologist.~~
- ~~7. Engage in the following activities:~~
 - ~~a. Preparing materials;~~
 - ~~b. Scheduling appointments and activities;~~
 - ~~c. Preparing charts, records, or graphs and performing other clerical duties;~~

~~d. Performing checks and maintenance of equipment; and~~

~~e. Assisting a client with transitioning to and from therapy sessions.~~

~~8. Perform duties not otherwise restricted to the practice of speech language pathology.~~

~~D. A speech language pathologist assistant shall not engage in the practice of speech language pathology, including the following:~~

~~1. Represent himself as a speech language pathologist.~~

~~2. Perform standardized or nonstandardized diagnostic tests or formal or informal evaluations.~~

~~3. Perform procedures that require a professional level of clinical acumen and technical skill.~~

~~4. Tabulate or interpret results and observations of feeding and swallowing evaluations or screenings performed by a speech language pathologist.~~

~~5. Participate in formal conferences or meetings without the presence of the supervising speech language pathologist.~~

~~6. Provide interpretative information to the client, the family of the client, or others regarding the client's status or service.~~

~~7. Write, develop, or modify a client's treatment plan.~~

~~8. Assist in or provide services as specified in subsection C of this section unless directed by the supervising speech language pathologist.~~

~~9. Sign any formal documents in lieu of the supervising speech language pathologist.~~

~~10. Select a client for service or discharge a client from service.~~

~~11. Make a decision on the need for additional services or make referrals for service.~~

~~12. Disclose clinical or confidential information either orally or in writing to anyone other than the supervising speech-language pathologist, unless mandated by law or authorized by the supervising speech-language pathologist.~~

~~13. Develop or determine the swallowing or feeding strategies or precautions for a client or provide feeding or swallowing treatment.~~

~~E.~~ D. Supervision of an assistant in a speech-language pathology assistant.

~~1. The practice of an assistant shall only be supervised by a speech-language pathologist who retains full legal and ethical responsibility for the client. A speech-language pathologist shall only supervise the equivalent of [two full-time assistants.]~~

2. The speech-language pathologist shall provide the level of supervision to the speech-language pathologist assistant necessary to ensure quality of care to include onsite supervision of at least two client sessions for each assistant being supervised every 30 days to directly observe and evaluate the performance of the assistant. The speech-language pathologist shall document such onsite observation and evaluation in the client record for each session.

18VAC30-21-160. Unprofessional conduct.

The board may refuse to issue a license to any applicant, suspend a license for a stated period of time or indefinitely, reprimand a licensee or place his license on probation with such terms and conditions and for such time as it may designate, impose a monetary penalty, or revoke a license for any of the following:

1. Guarantee of the results of any speech, voice, language, or hearing consultative or therapeutic procedure or exploitation of clients by accepting them for treatment when benefit cannot reasonably be expected to occur or by continuing treatment unnecessarily;
2. Diagnosis or treatment of speech, voice, language, and hearing disorders solely by written correspondence, provided this shall not preclude:

- a. Follow-up by written correspondence or electronic communication concerning individuals previously seen; or
 - b. Providing clients with general information of an educational nature;
3. Failure to comply with provisions of § 32.1-127.1:03 of the Code of Virginia related to the confidentiality and disclosure of client records or related to provision of client records to another practitioner or to the client or his personal representative;
 4. Engaging or attempting to engage in a relationship with a client that constitutes a professional boundary violation in which the practitioner uses his professional position to take advantage of the vulnerability of a client or a client's family, including sexual misconduct with a client or a member of the client's family or other conduct that results or could result in personal gain at the expense of the client;
 5. Incompetence or negligence in the practice of the profession;
 6. Failure to comply with applicable state and federal statutes or regulations specifying the consultations and examinations required prior to the fitting of a new or replacement prosthetic aid for any communicatively impaired person;
 7. Failure to refer a client to an appropriate health care practitioner when there is evidence of an impairment for which assessment, evaluation, care, or treatment might be necessary;
 8. Failure to supervise persons who assist in the practice of audiology or speech-language pathology as well as failure to disclose the use and identity of unlicensed or licensed assistants;
 9. Conviction of a felony or a misdemeanor involving moral turpitude;
 10. Violating or cooperating with others in violating any of the provisions of Chapter 1 (§ 54.1-100 et seq.), 24 (§ 54.1-2400 et seq.), or 26 (§ 54.1-2600 et seq.) of Title 54 of the Code of Virginia or the regulations of the board;

11. Publishing or causing to be published in any manner an advertisement relating to his professional practice that is false, deceptive, or misleading;
12. Inability to practice with skill and safety;
13. Fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation in provision of documentation or information to the board or in the practice of audiology or speech-language pathology;
14. Aiding and abetting unlicensed activity; or
15. Revocation, suspension, restriction, or any other discipline of a license or certificate to practice or surrender of license or certificate while an investigation or administrative proceedings are pending in another regulatory agency in Virginia or another jurisdiction.

VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY - 2025 RECONVENED SESSION

CHAPTER 649

An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Chapter 26 of Title 54.1 an article numbered 3, consisting of sections numbered 54.1-2620 through 54.1-2624, and to repeal § 54.1-2605 of the Code of Virginia, relating to speech-language pathology assistants; licensure, qualifications, scope of practice; revocation or suspension of license; continuing education.

[H 2040]

Approved April 2, 2025

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Chapter 26 of Title 54.1 an article numbered 3, consisting of sections numbered 54.1-2620 through 54.1-2624, as follows:

Article 3.

Licensure of Speech-Language Pathology Assistants.

§ 54.1-2620. License; application; qualifications of speech-language pathology assistants.

A. No person shall practice as a speech-language pathology assistant unless he possesses a current, active, and valid license from the Board. The licensee shall have the right to practice as a speech-language pathology assistant in the Commonwealth for the period of his license as set by the Board, under the supervision and direction of a licensed speech-language pathologist.

B. An application for such license shall be made to the Board in writing and shall be accompanied by satisfactory proof that the applicant (i) has completed a Board-approved eligibility pathway option, described in subsection C, and (ii) has completed a minimum of 100 hours of supervised clinical experience under the direct supervision of a licensed speech-language pathologist.

C. In order to practice as a speech-language pathology assistant, an applicant for licensure shall complete a Board-approved eligibility pathway that includes:

1. (i) Obtaining a two-year speech-language pathology assistant program degree from an accredited institution, (ii) completing the prerequisite courses required by subsection D, and (iii) completing the clinical field work required by subsection E;

2. (i) Obtaining a bachelor's degree in communication sciences and disorders from an accredited institution; (ii) completing (a) the online education modules offered by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association or (b) a program equivalent to the online education modules offered by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association; (iii) completing the prerequisite courses required by subsection D; and (iv) completing the clinical field work required by subsection E; or

3. (i) Obtaining a bachelor's or associate's degree from an accredited institution; (ii) completing a speech-language pathology assistant program with equivalent course work, or completing academic course work from an accredited institution of higher education in the following areas: (a) introductory or overview course in communication disorders, (b) phonetics, (c) speech sound disorders, (d) language development, (e) language disorders, and (f) anatomy and physiology of speech and hearing mechanisms; (iii) completing the prerequisite courses required by subsection D; and (iv) completing the clinical field work required by subsection E.

D. In order to practice as a speech-language pathology assistant, an applicant for licensure shall complete three one-hour prerequisite courses from an approved professional development provider, academic clinical practicum program, or via employee training, on each of the following topics: (i) ethics, (ii) universal safety precautions, and (iii) patient confidentiality.

E. In order to practice as a speech-language pathology assistant, an applicant for licensure shall complete a minimum of 100 hours of clinical field work, including (i) 80 hours of direct patient/client/student services under the supervision of a licensed speech-language pathologist and (ii) 20 hours of indirect patient/client/student services under the supervision of a licensed speech-language pathologist. Such hours may be completed via an academic practicum or on the job under the supervision of a licensed speech-language pathologist. Hours completed via an academic practicum or on the job shall be no more than five years old at the time of application for licensure. Observation, simulation, and graduate practicum hours shall not count toward such requirement.

F. The Board may grant a license to practice as a speech-language pathology assistant to an applicant licensed to practice in another jurisdiction if he (i) meets the requirements of subsection B; (ii) holds a current, unrestricted license to practice as a speech-language pathology assistant in another jurisdiction in the United States; (iii) has not committed any act that would constitute grounds for denial as set forth in § 54.1-2706; and (iv) meets other qualifications as determined in regulations promulgated by the Board.

G. The Board shall promulgate regulations (i) establishing the number of speech-language pathology assistants that may practice under the supervision of one licensed speech-language pathologist, not to exceed

three speech-language pathology assistants under the supervision of one licensed speech-language pathologist, and (ii) defining (a) "direct supervision" as the in-view observation and guidance by a licensed speech-language pathologist of a speech-language pathology assistant while such speech language pathology assistant performs an assigned activity and (b) "indirect supervision" as the monitoring or reviewing of the activities performed by a speech-language pathology assistant by a licensed speech-language pathologist, excluding observation and guidance provided during the provision of direct services to a student, patient, or client.

§ 54.1-2621. Scope of practice of speech-language pathology assistants.

A. A licensed speech-language pathology assistant shall only engage in those duties that adhere to the code of ethics of the Board and are planned, designed, and supervised by a licensed speech-language pathologist, including:

1. Assisting with speech, language, and hearing screenings without clinical interpretation of results;
2. Administering and scoring screenings for clinical interpretation by the supervising speech-language pathologist;
3. Assisting with, but not administering or interpreting the results of, client assessments, including setting up the testing environment, gathering and preparing materials, and taking notes;
4. Administering and scoring assessments and progress monitoring tools without clinical interpretation of results, if the licensed speech-language pathology assistant meets the examiner requirements for such tools and the supervising speech-language pathologist has verified that such examiner requirements have been met;
5. Performing routine activities for therapy sessions in accordance with a plan developed and directed by the speech-language pathologist who retains the professional responsibility for such client, including (i) implementing documented care plans or protocols, (ii) providing direct therapy services to address treatment goals, (iii) adjusting and documenting the amount and type of support or scaffolding provided to the client in treatment to facilitate progress, and (iv) developing and implementing activities and materials for teaching and practice of skills to address the goals of the client;
6. Providing treatment through a variety of service delivery models as directed by the supervising speech-language pathologist;
7. Utilizing telecommunications technology to provide services remotely to clients as directed by the supervising speech-language pathologist;
8. Documenting client performance and reporting such performance information to the supervising speech-language pathologist;
9. Providing caregiver coaching, including modeling and teaching communication strategies and providing feedback regarding caregiver-client interactions for facilitation and carryover of skills;
10. Sharing objective information regarding client performance without interpretation or recommendations as directed by the supervising speech-language pathologist;
11. Assisting with programming augmentative and alternative communication devices and assisting and training clients with using such devices;
12. Demonstrating strategies and assisting clients with skills included in the feeding and swallowing plan developed by the supervising speech-language pathologist;
13. Signing or initialing informal treatment notes and, upon request, co-signing formal documents with the supervising speech-language pathologist;
14. Assisting with clerical duties and site operations, including preparing materials, scheduling appointments and activities, preparing charts, records, or graphs, and performing checks and maintenance of equipment;
15. Assisting clients with transitioning to and from therapy sessions; and
16. Performing duties not otherwise restricted to the practice of speech-language pathology.

B. A speech-language pathologist assistant shall not engage in the practice of speech-language pathology, including the following:

1. Representing himself as a speech-language pathologist;
2. Performing diagnostic tests or evaluations;
3. Performing procedures that require a professional level of clinical judgment and technical skill;
4. Interpreting results and observations of feeding and swallowing evaluations or screenings performed by a speech-language pathologist;
5. Participating in formal conferences or meetings without the presence of the supervising speech-language pathologist;
6. Providing interpretative information to a client, the family of a client, or any other individual;
7. Writing, developing, or modifying a client's treatment plan;
8. Assisting in or providing services described in subsection A unless directed by the supervising speech-language pathologist;
9. Signing any formal documents in place of the supervising speech-language pathologist;
10. Selecting a client for service or discharging a client from service;

11. Making a decision regarding the need for additional services or making a referral for service;
12. Disclosing clinical or confidential information either orally or in writing to anyone other than the supervising speech-language pathologist, unless mandated by law or authorized by the supervising speech-language pathologist; or

13. Developing or determining the swallowing or feeding strategies or precautions for a client or providing feeding or swallowing treatment.

C. A licensed speech-language pathology assistant shall be supervised by a speech-language pathologist, who shall retain full legal and ethical responsibility for the client.

§ 54.1-2622. Continuing education.

The Board shall promulgate regulations requiring continuing education for any speech-language pathology assistant license renewal or reinstatement. The Board may grant exceptions or exemptions from these continuing education requirements.

§ 54.1-2623. Revocation or suspension; other sanctions.

The Board may refuse to issue a license to any applicant; suspend, for a stated period or indefinitely, or revoke any license; or censure or reprimand any licensee or place such person on probation for such time as it may designate for any of the following causes:

1. Obtaining a license through fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation;
2. Being convicted of any felony or being convicted of any crime involving moral turpitude;
3. Using alcohol or drugs to the extent that such use renders the person unsafe to practice as a speech-language pathologist assistant;
4. Any unprofessional conduct likely to defraud or to deceive the public or patients;
5. Practicing in an intentional or negligent manner that causes or is likely to cause injury to a patient or patients;
6. Assisting persons whom he knew or had reason to believe were unlicensed to practice as a speech-language pathologist or speech-language pathologist assistant;
7. Violating, assisting, or inducing others to violate any provision of this article or any Board regulation;
8. Conducting his practice in a manner contrary to the standards of ethics of a speech-language pathologist assistant;
9. Practicing or causing others to practice in a manner that is dangerous to the health and welfare of his patients or to the public;
10. Practicing outside the scope of the speech-language pathologist assistant's education, training, and experience; or
11. Receiving a revocation, suspension, or restriction of a license to practice as a speech-language pathologist assistant in another state, possession, or territory of the United States or foreign country.

§ 54.1-2624. Grounds for revocation or suspension.

The Board may revoke or suspend the license of any speech-language pathologist assistant for any of the causes set forth in § 54.1-2623, insofar as the action is applicable to practicing as a speech-language pathologist assistant.

2. That § 54.1-2605 of the Code of Virginia is repealed.

3. That the provisions of the first and second enactments of this act shall become effective on July 1, 2027.

4. That the Board of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology's initial adoption of regulations necessary to implement the provisions of this act shall be exempt from the Administrative Process Act (§ 2.2-4000 et seq. of the Code of Virginia), except that the Board of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology shall provide an opportunity for public comment on the regulations prior to adoption of such regulations.

5. That the Board of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology shall amend and promulgate regulations in accordance with this act by July 1, 2026.

Audiology Monthly Snapshot for May 2026

Speech Pathology/Audiology received more cases in May than closed. Speech Pathology/Audiology closed 0 patient care cases and 1 non-patient care cases for a total of 1 case.

Cases Closed	
Patient Care	0
Non-Patient Care	1
Total	1

Speech Pathology/Audiology has received 1 patient care case and 3 non-patient care cases for a total of 4 cases.

Cases Received	
Patient Care	1
Non-Patient Care	3
Total	4

As of May 31,2026 there were 10 patient care cases open and 4 non-patient care cases open for a total of 14 cases.

Cases Open	
Patient Care	10
Non-Patient Care	4
Total	14

There are 6,768 Speech Pathology/Audiology licensees as of May 31,2026. The number of current licenses is broken down by profession in the following chart.

Current Licenses	
Audiologist	663
School Speech-Language Pathologist	335
Speech-Language Pathologist	5,770
Total for Speech Pathology/Audiology	6,768

There were 118 licenses issued for Speech Pathology/Audiology for the month of May. The number of licenses issued is broken down by profession in the following chart.

Licenses Issued	
Audiologist	4
Provisional Audiologist	3
Provisional Speech-Language Pathologist	60
School Speech-Language Pathologist	2
Speech-Language Pathologist	49
Total for Speech Pathology/Audiology	118

AUDIOLOGY AND SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY

2027 CALENDAR

February 26, 2027 (Friday)	TR 1 9:00 AM	INFORMAL CONFERENCE(S)
March 30, 2027 (Tuesday)	BR 4 9 a.m.	BOARD MEETING FORMAL HEARING IF NEEDED
July 20, 2027 (Tuesday)	BR 4 9 a.m.	BOARD MEETING FORMAL HEARING IF NEEDED
September 24, 2027 (Friday)	TR 1 9:00 AM	INFORMAL CONFERENCE(S)
December 7, 2027 (Tuesday)	BR 3 9:00 AM	BOARD MEETING FORMAL HEARING IF NEEDED

CALENDAR_ASLP_2027