

## **Certification of Speech Language Pathologists**

Effective July 1, 2020, the State Board of Education (SBE) approved issuance of educator certificates in the certification field of Speech Language Pathologist (SLP).

For issuance of an educator credential, South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) accepts approved master's level programs for the preparation of SLPs. Acceptable programs include those accredited by the Council on Academic Accreditation (CAA) of the American Speech Hearing Association (ASHA) as well as programs admitted to candidacy by the CAA-ASHA.

### Steps to Apply for Educator Certification

An SLP applying for an educator certificate must

- Complete an online application through the SCDE Educator Portal prior to all other steps.
- Submit the non-refundable \$105 processing fee online through the Educator Portal.
- Complete the fingerprinting and criminal history review process.
- Submit official transcripts from each college or university attended. The certification application can be processed without an undergraduate transcript; however, the transcript for the SLP program is necessary to determine if the certificate will be issued at the Master's or Master's +30 class level for compensation purposes.
- Submit a legible copy of a current, valid Certificate of Clinical Competence issued by ASHA (CCC-ASHA) or a legible copy of a current, valid SLP license issued by the South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation (LLR). *Individuals submitting an application after August 31, 2020, must provide a legible copy of a current LLR license in order to be issued an educator certificate.*
- *If applicable*, submit Experience Verification Form(s), to receive educator experience credit on the certificate and/or to document experience as an SLP working in a public school setting (either as an employee of a school district or a third-party provider).
- *If applicable*, submit a legible copy of any valid out-of-state educator certificate.

### First-time Applicants and Certificate Types

#### *Professional Certificate*

- An individual who has successfully completed an ASHA-approved SLP program that includes an educator certification track will be eligible for an educator certificate at the Professional level.
- An individual who has successfully completed an ASHA-approved SLP program without an educator certification track but presents documentation of at least one year of employment as an SLP in a public school setting will be issued a Professional certificate.

#### *Internship Certificate*

- An individual who has successfully completed an ASHA-approved SLP program that did not include an educator certification track and does not have employment experience as an SLP in a public school setting will be issued an Internship certificate. The Internship

certificate will be issued for one year and may be extended at the request of the employer. With subsequent documentation of one year of employment as an SLP in a public school setting, the Internship certificate will be converted to a Professional credential and will be issued for the remaining years of a five-year validity period.

### SLPs with Expired South Carolina Educator Certificates

#### *Professional Certificates Expired Less than Ten Years*

An SLP with a South Carolina Professional certificate that has been expired less than 10 years is eligible to renew the educator certificate by submitting the following documentation:

- an updated online application through the SCDE Educator Portal;
- a copy of a valid SLP license issued by LLR;
- official transcript(s) of any additional graduate degrees or coursework; and
- verification of any additional relevant experience.

Once all items indicated above are submitted, the SCDE will renew the Professional educator certificate based on the valid LLR license. Documentation submitted previously remains on file. The renewed certificate will be issued for a five-year period.

#### *Professional Certificates Expired More than Ten Years*

If an SLP previously held a South Carolina Professional educator certificate that has been expired for more than 10 years, the individual must:

- submit an application for certification online through the SCDE Educator Portal;
- submit the non-refundable \$105 processing fee through the Educator Portal;
- complete the fingerprinting and criminal history review process;
- submit a copy of a valid SLP license issued by LLR;
- submit an official transcript of any additional graduate degrees or coursework; and
- submit verification of any additional relevant experience.

Once all required documentation listed above is submitted, the SCDE will issue a Professional educator certificate to eligible individuals. Documentation submitted previously remains on file. The certificate will be issued for a five-year period.

#### *Expired Initial Certificates*

If an SLP previously held a South Carolina Initial educator certificate that is expired, the individual must:

- submit an application for certification online through the SCDE Educator Portal;
- submit the non-refundable \$105 processing fee through the Educator Portal;
- complete the fingerprinting and criminal history review process;
- submit a copy of a valid SLP license issued by LLR;
- submit an official transcript of any additional graduate degrees or coursework; and

- submit verification of any additional relevant experience.

Once all required documentation is submitted, the SCDE will issue a Professional educator certificate to eligible individuals.

### ADEPT Evaluation Process

#### *SLPs Employed Directly by a School District*

- SLPs employed directly by a school district will participate in the district's ADEPT evaluation process using the appropriate model and follow the same contract levels as other educators.
  - SLPs on an Internship certificate must participate in the district's induction program and be assigned a mentor.
  - SLPs on a Professional certificate must successfully complete the ADEPT summative evaluation process at the annual contract level in order to be eligible for a continuing contract.

#### *Contracted SLPs*

- SLPs employed through a third-party vendor will be evaluated using the employer's protocols. An employer may choose to use the state's ADEPT evaluation model for SLPs in conjunction with a school district but is not required to do so.

### Certificate Renewal

#### *SLP Educator Certificate Only*

- To renew the SLP educator certificate, the individual must submit a current, valid LLR license to the SCDE.

#### *SLP and Classroom Teaching Certificates*

- To renew the SLP educator certificate, the individual must submit a current, valid LLR license to the SCDE.
- To renew the classroom teaching certificate, the individual must earn the required 120 renewal credits. The CEUs or other credits used to renew the LLR license and SLP certificate may be applied toward the 120 renewal credits.

### SLPs Currently Holding a Certificate Issued in the Field of Speech Language Therapist

Individuals currently certified in Speech Language Therapist may request an evaluation to determine eligibility for the certification field of Speech Language Pathologist by submitting a Request for Change/Action form and a copy of a valid LLR license to the Office of Educator Services.