



Teamwork Makes the Dream Work!

SLP/SLPA Partnership in Schools
SCSHA Convention February 2, 2024



Learning Objectives

A school-based SLP's workload can be daunting. A school SLP's day may include measuring progress of students, documentation, scheduling meetings and writing IEPs, evaluating students, consulting with teachers, parents, caregivers, administrators, reviewing evidence-based practice methods, serving on MTSS/intervention teams, and any number of other tasks. These extensive responsibilities pose challenges for the school SLP. In this session, the presenters will share from personal experience how teaming up with a highly trained SLPA can alleviate some of the workload and allow the SLP to work at the top of their license.

By the end of this presentation participants should be able to:

1. Discuss the scope of practice of an SLPA
2. List 3 ways in which an SLPA can help alleviate the workload of the school-based SLP
3. Discuss ways to advocate with district leadership to employ SLPAs.

Speech-Language Pathologists

Gabrielle “Gabi” Hilliard, MSP, CCC-SLP

Gabi Hilliard graduated from the University of South Carolina and has been a practicing school-based SLP since 1996. She has worked in the public schools for the past 27+ years. She is currently the Lead SLP in Anderson School District Five in Anderson, SC and serves a full caseload in addition to Lead SLP duties. She has experience in supervising practicum students, Clinical Fellows, and SLPAs. **Financial Disclosures:** Currently work for Anderson School District Five as a full-time employee. **No Non-financial disclosures.**

Deborah Phillips MS CCC-SLP

Deborah Phillips graduated from Western Carolina University in 2016. She has experience working in private practice with an SLPA and has worked in South Carolina public schools for 5 years. She is currently working in Anderson School District 5 as a supervising therapist and Child Find evaluator. **Financial Disclosures:** Currently contracted by Anderson School District 5 as a part time therapist. **No Non-financial disclosures.**

Speech-Language Pathology Assistants

Hannah Arnold, Lolar, B.A. SLPA.

Hannah Lolar graduated from Columbia College in 2022. She has worked in the public school system for one year. She is currently working as an SLPA in Anderson School District Five in Anderson, SC. **Financial Disclosures:** Currently work for Anderson School District Five as a full-time employee. **No Non-financial disclosures.**

Eandra Goldsmith, B.A. SLPA.

Eandra Goldsmith graduated from Columbia College with her second bachelor's degree in 2022. She has worked in the public school system for almost two years. She is currently employed as an SLPA with Anderson School District Five in Anderson, SC. She is also working to obtain her masters degree in Speech-Language Pathology at the University of South Carolina. **Financial Disclosures:** Currently work for Anderson School District Five as a full-time employee. **No Non-financial disclosures.**

Preparation/Requirements for SLPA Licensure



- Earn bachelor's degree in Speech-Language Pathology that includes 36 semester hours of core curriculum
- 100 hours of clinical experience through practicum experiences
 - **Earning a bachelor's degree in Speech-Language Pathology provides preparation for SLPA licensure and ASHA C-SLPA certification as well as the required prerequisites for graduate admissions.**



**BOB JONES
UNIVERSITY**
EST. 1927



Supervision Requirements for SLPAs in SC

CHAPTER 115 Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation—Board of Examiners in Speech/Language Pathology and Audiology 115-2 (D-I) [South Carolina Board of Speech-Language Pathology & Audiology](#)

- General Guidelines
- On the Job Training
- Direct Supervision—minimum 1 of every 7 visits per patient
- Indirect Supervision—minimum 5% (ex. 2 of every 40 hours for 40 hour work week)
- Quarterly Reviews—SLP reviews SLPA performance on each assigned service or task.

SLPA Scope of Practice

SC LLR Scope of Practice-SLPA

CHAPTER 115 Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation—Board of Examiners in Speech/Language Pathology and Audiology (115-2 (J))

[South Carolina Board of Speech-Language Pathology & Audiology](#)

ASHA Scope of Practice - SLPA

[Scope of Practice for the Speech-Language Pathology Assistant \(SLPA\)](#)

SLPs and SLPAs **share** one caseload

(2022)

(South Carolina board of speech-language pathology & audiology)

SLPAs help SLP workload in schools

Based on our personal experiences during 2022-23 and 2023-24 school years, SLPAs helped us by taking on the following responsibilities:

- Conducting daily therapy sessions
- Scheduling meetings
 - Contacting team members
 - Gathering/compiling information from other team members
- Observations
- Preparing therapy and/or evaluation materials/assisting in evaluations
- Screenings

SLPAs allow SLPs to work at the top of their license

- More time for comprehensive evaluations—both annual IEP evaluations and initial evaluations.
- More time for consultation with teachers and other team members.
- More time to devote to challenging cases.
- Improved compliance with prescribed services in IEPs.

Even with a full caseload and supervision responsibilities, SLPAs provide SLPs with more time for other job responsibilities, resulting in quality services to students both on caseload and other students in our schools.

Advocacy

- Educate HR/SPED leadership on the value of SLPAs
 - Help with SLP workload
 - Help with recruitment/retention of SLPs
 - SLPAs may be interested in working for school districts while obtaining masters degree in Speech Pathology (Project [CREATE - South Carolina Department of Education - 01/12/2024 2:52 AM](#)--helping develop future SLPs to work in schools)
- Salaries
- Involve supervising SLPs



Questions?

Contact information

Gabi Hilliard: gabihilliard@anderson5.net or gabihilliard711@gmail.com

Deborah Phillips: phillipsspeechtherapyservices@gmail.com

Hannah Lolar: hannahlarnold@anderson5.net

Eandra Goldsmith: eandragoldsmith@anderson5.net

References

ASHA. (2022). *Speech-language pathology assistant scope of practice*. American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. <https://www.asha.org/policy/slpa-scope-of-practice/>

Columbia College. (n.d.). *SLP academic and clinical handbook 2022-2023 - columbia college*. Speech-Language Pathology Program - Academic & Clinical Handbook. <https://www.columbiasc.edu/sites/default/files/2018-10/SLP%20Academic%20and%20Clinical%20Handbook%202022-2023-2.pdf>

South Carolina Department of Education. (2024). *Create*. South Carolina Department of Education. <https://ed.sc.gov/districts-schools/special-education-services/projects-and-supports/create/>

South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation. (n.d.-a). *South Carolina board of speech-language pathology & audiology*. SCLLR. <https://llr.sc.gov/aud/PRACTICE.aspx#9>

South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation. (n.d.-b). *South Carolina board of speech-language pathology & audiology*. SCLLR. <https://llr.sc.gov/aud/>

South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation. (n.d.-c). *South Carolina board of speech-language pathology & audiology*. SCLLR. <https://llr.sc.gov/aud/PRACTICE.aspx>