

## Speech-Language Pathology Services

The development of communication skills is important for all students and can impact school success. The school-based speech-language pathologist (SLP) plays an important role in education and may serve on both the special education and general education teams. SLPs may serve students directly or work with educators and families to address communication and language needs.

*Regulations Governing Special Education Programs for Children with Disabilities in Virginia<sup>1</sup> (Virginia Special Education Regulations)*, 8 VAC 20-80-10 et al. defines speech-language pathology services as: identification of children with speech-language impairments, appraisal and diagnosis of the impairment, referral for medical or other professional attention, provision of speech-language services for prevention or habilitation of communication impairments, and counseling and guidance for parents, children and teachers regarding speech and/or language impairments. Speech-language pathology services are both special education and a related service and may also be provided as part of a general education initiative

The school-based speech-language pathologist may serve as a member of a variety of teams that make decisions regarding evaluation, eligibility, and services. The speech-language pathologist does not make decisions in isolation regarding the needed evaluation components, the child's eligibility for special education and related services, or the goals and objectives of intervention. The needs of students with disabilities are best addressed in a transdisciplinary manner with a team of professionals providing services

Speech-language pathologists may also provide support when students are not eligible for speech-language services by participating on various prevention/early intervention teams (e.g., Instructional Support Teams, teacher assistance teams, and child study committees). On these teams, the speech-language pathologist may conduct observations, complete assessments, plan with teachers, model interventions, coach teachers, and/or gather data, all in the context of general education. Speech-language pathologists may provide prevention and intervention services based on local programs and policies.

Scott County Public Schools provides licensed speech-language pathologists to serve children between the ages of 2 and 21 (inclusive). If you suspect that your child has speech delay, please contact your child's homeschool and ask to speak to the speech pathologist.