ALABAMA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

CHAPTER 290-3-2
TEACHER CERTIFICATION PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

290-3-2-.42 Speech Language Pathology Assistant (SLA) Certificate Approach.

(1) **Overview.** A superintendent who wishes to employ an individual as a speech-language pathology assistant may request a nonrenewable Level I or renewable Level II Speech-Language Pathology Assistant Certificate. This certificate allows an individual who has an earned bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited senior institution in speech-language pathology or communication sciences and disorders (with a speech-language emphasis) to be employed as a full-time speech-language pathology assistant under appropriate supervision. Requirements for issuance of a renewable Level II Speech-Language Pathology Assistant Certificate, include 12 semester hours of prescribed graduate credit. A Speech-Language Pathology Assistant Certificate is not appropriate certification for any other assignment.

(2) **Application.** Information about applications can be found in Rule 290-3-2-.02.

(3) **Requirements for Issuance of a Nonrenewable Level I Certificate.**

(a) Successful completion of the Alabama Special Requirements in Rule 290-3-2-.02.

(b) The applicant is required to submit to the superintendent documentation of having met all requirements as prescribed in this Rule and on the application.

(c) Verification of at least an earned bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited senior institution in speech-language pathology or communication sciences and disorders (with a speech-language emphasis). The bachelor's degree must be posted with a minimum overall grade point average (GPA) of at least 2.5.

(d) Verification of a current passing score on the prescribed Praxis subject area assessment(s) of the AECAP. The Praxis requirement becomes effective when a subject area assessment is implemented.

(e) The employing superintendent's designation of an appropriate supervisor who is **one** of the following:

1. A speech-language pathologist who holds a valid Class A or Class AA Professional Educator Certificate in speech or language impairment.

2. A special education coordinator or special education supervisor who holds a valid Professional Educator Certificate **in an area of** special education.

(4) **Requirements for Issuance of a Renewable Level II Certificate.**

(a) Successful completion of the Alabama Special Requirements in Rule 290-3-2-.02.

(b) The applicant is required to submit to the superintendent documentation of having met all requirements as prescribed in this Rule and on the application.

(c) A valid or expired Level I Certificate.

(d) Verification of at least two full years of full-time employment in one or more Alabama public school systems as a speech-language pathology assistant, while holding a valid Level I Certificate.

(e) Verification the two years of required employment were supervised by an appropriate supervisor.

(f) Documentation of having completed **one** of the following:

1. A valid Class A Professional Educator Certificate in an area of special education.

2. Twelve (12) semester hours of graduate credit with a grade of "B" or above from a regionally accredited senior institution. The credit must be from **one** of the following three options:

(i) A master's degree level special education state-approved program.

(ii) A master's degree level speech-language pathology program that was in candidacy status at the time the credits were earned or holds accreditation by the Council of Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (CAA).

(iii) A combination of courses from (i) and (ii).

(g) Verification of a current passing score on the prescribed Praxis subject area assessment(s) of the AECAP. The Praxis requirement becomes effective when a subject area assessment is implemented.

(5) **Requirements for the Renewal of a Level II Certificate.**

(a) The Level II Certificate may be **continued** at the request of the employing superintendent who wishes to employ the applicant as a speech-language pathology assistant when **all** requirements have been met. All requirements to be applied toward the continuation of a certificate must be completed during the valid period of the current certificate.

1. If the individual holds a valid Class A Professional Educator Certificate in an area of special education, the Level II Certificate may be continued upon continuation of the Class A Professional Educator Certificate.

2. If the individual does not hold a valid Class A Professional Educator Certificate in an area of special education:

(i) Verification that years serving as a speech-language pathology assistant were supervised by an appropriate supervisor.

(ii) Unless the individual has completed all courses and other master's degree level or higher state-approved program requirements except the internship, twelve additional semester hours of graduate credit with a grade of "B" or above from a regionally accredited senior institution are required. The credit must be earned during the valid period of the Level II Certificate. The credit must meet the same criteria as required for issuance of the Level II Certificate.

(iii) The requirement for 12 additional semester hours of graduate credit earned during the valid period of the Level II Certificate to be renewed continues until the individual completes one of the following:

(I) Earns a master's degree in speech-language pathology or communication sciences and disorders (with a speech-language emphasis) and holds at least a Class A Professional Educator Certificate in speech and language impairment;

(II) Holds a valid Class A Professional Educator Certificate in an area of special education; or

(III) Completes all courses and other state-approved program requirements for a Class A Professional Educator Certificate in an area of special education except the internship.

(b) The Level II Certificate may be **reinstated** at the request of the employing superintendent who wishes to employ the applicant as a speech-language pathology assistant when **all** requirements have been met. All requirements to be applied toward the continuation of a certificate must be completed during the valid period of the current certificate.

1. If the individual held a Class A Professional Educator Certificate in an area of special education, requirements for reinstating a Level II Certificate are the same as the requirements for reinstating a Class A Professional Educator Certificate.

2. If the individual does not hold a Class A Professional Educator Certificate in an area of special education the individual must meet the same credit requirements as outlined for continuation in this Rule. The credit must be earned within the two years prior to the beginning date of the reinstated certificate.

3. Verification of a current passing score on the prescribed Praxis subject area assessment(s) of the AECAP. The Praxis requirement becomes effective when a subject area assessment is implemented.

(6) **Valid Period.**

(a) The Level I Certificate shall be valid from the date of issuance through the remainder of the same scholastic year, and thereafter, for the next three consecutive scholastic years and is not renewable.

(b) The Level II Certificate shall be valid from the date of issuance through the remainder of the same scholastic year, and thereafter, for the next consecutive five scholastic years and is renewable.

(7) **Historical Information.** Class B Professional Educator Certificates in speech or language impairment have not been initially issued with a valid period beginning after July 1, 2007.

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