



# Louisiana Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology

## Who They Are?

SLPs hold a master's degree and are the healthcare professionals expertly trained to assess, diagnose, and treat disorders related to communication, speech, language, swallowing, and cognitive-communication.

## What They Do

- **Articulation and Motor Speech disorders** – focuses on the pronunciation of speech sounds
- **Language Delay/Disorders** – focuses on the understanding/comprehension and speaking/expression of language
- **Literacy disorders** – focuses on reading related difficulties
- **Fluency disorders** – focuses on minimizing the interruptions to the normal flow of speech
- **Neurological disorders including Stroke, TBI, Brain Tumors, Progressive/Degenerative Diseases, Concussion Management** – focuses on the evaluation/treatment of language, memory, problem solving, orientation and reasoning deficits
- **Voice & Resonance disorders** – focuses on the quality, volume and pitch of the voice
- **Gender affirming voice therapy** – focuses on vocal modification to align with gender expression
- **Accent Modification Training** – focuses on improving overall intelligibility of speech
- **Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC)** – focuses on evaluation/training with communication devices
- **Aural Rehabilitation for the Hearing Impaired** – focuses of auditory perception training for individuals with hearing loss
- **Adult and pediatric Swallowing disorders** – focuses on the ability to swallow functionally and safely



## Who They Are?

Audiologists are doctoral trained healthcare professionals who specialize in the assessment, diagnosis, and management of hearing and balance disorders.

## What They Do

- **Newborn hearing screenings**
- **Comprehensive Diagnostic hearing evaluations** to identify and treat the type, degree, and severity of hearing loss
- **Electrophysiology** to gather objective measures of the peripheral and central auditory nervous system
- **Tinnitus evaluation and management**
- **Vestibular evaluations and management** symptoms such as: vertigo, abnormal gait, balance dysfunction, etc.
- **Hearing aid and assistive listening device evaluations, fitting, dispensing and verification**
- **Cochlear implant evaluations and programming/mapping**
- **Central Auditory Processing Disorder assessment**
- **Cognitive Screenings**

## Audiologists



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## Why is Licensing Important?

- To safeguard the public from being misled by unauthorized persons and from unprofessional conduct on the part of qualified Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists
- To receive and resolve complaints from the public against licensees or registrants
- To help ensure the availability of the highest quality speech-language pathology and audiology services to individuals with communication disorders
- To provide regulatory authority over persons offering speech-language pathology and audiology services

## Who is the LBESPA Board?

The Board, also known as LBESPA, consists of 7 members appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate, for a term of 3 years, with eligibility for a second 3 year term.

Members include:



3 Audiologists



2 Speech-Language Pathologists in any setting



1 Speech-Language Pathologist in the public school setting



1 Consumer member

## Where and When Do They Meet?

LBESPA meets five times a year in Prairieville, Louisiana. Meeting dates are posted on the Board's website, [www.lbespa.org](http://www.lbespa.org), as well as on the Louisiana Division of Administration website.

## What They Do

- Issue licenses to those in compliance with LA R.S. 37:2659
- Sponsor continuing education activities for licensees to have the opportunity to learn from high quality speakers
- Monitor continuing education requirements to ensure quality, skilled care
- Receive and investigate complaints from any person against licensees, registrants, applicants, or other persons engaging in practices which violate or allege to violate the provisions of LA R.S. 37:2650
- Conduct Compliance Hearings and Disciplinary Hearings for licensees
- Collaborate with the Office of the Attorney General on matters related to fraudulent billing
- Report final actions of the Board to the National Practitioner DataBank, according to federal law
- Conduct random audit of licensees related to continuing education and 100% audit of supervision
- Enact, enforce, and adopt Rules and Regulations to provide regulatory authority over persons offering speech-language pathology and audiology services to the public

## Purpose of the Board

LBESPA was created in 1972 by the Louisiana Legislature to safeguard the public health, safety, and welfare, to protect the public from incompetent, unscrupulous, and unauthorized persons, and from unprofessional conduct by speech-language pathologists, audiologists, and speech-language pathology assistants, by providing regulatory authority over persons offering speech-language pathology and audiology services to the public. (LA R.S. 37:2650)