

MEMORANDUM

To: Superintendents and Principals

From: Dr. Andrew Melin, Chief Innovation Officer
Ms. Risa Regnier, Director of Educator Licensing

Date: May 10, 2019

Re: Senate Enrolled Act 189 - Emergency Communication Disorder Permits

Background:

Following a one-year hiatus, SEA 189 reinstates the Indiana Department of Education's (IDOE) authority to issue emergency permits in Communication Disorders for the next two school years, 2019-2020 and 2020-2021. An emergency permit is valid for one school year and is issued with the approval of the school employer. IDOE's authority under SEA 189 to issue emergency permits in Communication Disorders expires on June 30, 2021. The bill provides that the director of a graduate program in communication disorders in which an emergency permit holder is enrolled shall confirm to IDOE at the end of each semester that the permit holder continues to be enrolled in the program. Additionally, it requires the Indiana Professional Licensing Agency, in consultation with IDOE's Office of Educator Licensing, the Indiana Council of Administrators of Special Education, the Indiana Association of Public School Superintendents, the Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Board, and the Indiana Speech Language Hearing Association to: 1) examine the requirements for licensure as a speech-language pathologist or audiologist in Indiana; and 2) not later than July 1, 2020, issue to the General Assembly a report containing recommendations for streamlining the process for obtaining a license as a speech-language pathologist or audiologist in Indiana.

Guidance:

As of July 1, 2019, IDOE will begin issuing emergency permits in Communication Disorders for the 2019-2020 school year. To be eligible a candidate must:

1. Hold a bachelor's degree in speech, language and hearing sciences or an equivalent degree in the subject area; and
2. Be enrolled and submit a verified plan of study in a graduate program in communication disorders.

Candidates must apply through IDOE's online licensing system, LVIS. The applicant portal can be found here: <https://license.doe.in.gov/>.

A candidate who held an emergency permit in Communication Disorders during the 2017-2018 school year may be eligible for renewal of the permit for the 2019-2020 school year if the candidate provides documentation of continued enrollment in the graduate program and the candidate made progress toward full licensure by completing coursework during the 2017-2018 school year and/or the 2018-2019 intervening "hiatus" school year.

A candidate issued an emergency permit for the first time for the 2019-2020 school year may be eligible to renew the emergency permit for the 2020-2021 school year if the school employer approves the renewal application, and the candidate provides documentation of continued enrollment in the graduate program and has made progress toward full licensure by completing coursework during the 2019-2020 school year.

If you have any questions, please contact Risa Regnier at (317) 232-0501 or e-mail at rregnier@doe.in.gov.

This bill was authored by Senator Vaneta Becker and full bill text can be found [here](#). Information regarding how to contact your legislators can be found [here](#).