

Illinois Speech-Language-Hearing Association

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Voice and TT/TDD

Dear Superintendent,

The Illinois Speech-Language-Hearing Association promotes the National Certification of our members. The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) is the national credentialing association that grants the Certificate of Clinical Competence (CCC) to members who meet strict standards. This certification ensures a quality of service and benefits to consumers, as well as to schools, who hire and employ speech-language pathologists and audiologists.

These benefits include:

- **Professionals authorized to bill Medicaid for services.** Audits of billing practices by school districts have proven costly in states utilizing less qualified providers. In a report, "Review of Medicaid Speech Claims Made by the New York City Department of Education", the Office of Inspector General recommended that New York State return \$436,000,000 in Medicaid payments because (among other deficiencies) some claims did not include services provided by or under the direction of an ASHA-certified individual, or an individual with substantially equivalent qualifications.
- **Highly educated professionals who demonstrate a master level of competence.** Candidates must have at least a master's level education, 400 clock hours of obtained clinical practice, passed a national exam, and completed a clinical fellowship experience.
- **Professionals who demonstrate documented skill attainment under the supervision of a highly qualified peer.** CCC candidates complete a year of supervision and mentoring with materials reviewed by ASHA's Clinical Board.
- **Professionals who are recognized by governmental regulations and international groups.** The CCC is a standard for reimbursement and is a recognized highest qualified standard.
- **Professionals who have a standard of mandatory continuing education to maintain certification.** Even during retirement or a personal hiatus, requirements for continuing education must be maintained.
- **Professionals who recognize and are bound by a Code of Ethics.** An ethics violation can result in a revocation of the CCC. The highest level of standards in many other fields often do not include ethics as an integral part of certification and/or endorsement.

Speech-language pathologists and audiologists who hold CCCs demonstrate the highest level of standard and commitment in our profession. The consumer and employer can be assured of a quality professional who abides by continuing education requirements and ethical practices. Please personally commend your current employees who have their CCCs, and continue to seek out those professionals who hold the CCC when fulfilling your employment needs.

Please feel free to contact the Illinois Speech-Language-Hearing Association at 312-644-0828, or visit our website at www.ishail.org for questions or additional information.

Sincerely,

The Illinois Speech-Language-Hearing Association



Professionals Serving People with Communication Disorders