

RESOURCES FOR SCHOOL-BASED SLPs and SLPAs: TELEPRACTICE, SLPAs, and MEDICAID

1. The Illinois Speech Language Pathology Practice Act
 - a. <http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/ilcs3.asp?ActID=1325> (225 ILCS 110/8.2) (Section scheduled to be repealed on January 1, 2028) **Sec. 8.2. Remote practice of audiology and speech-language pathology.**
 - b. Scroll down to Sec. 8.2 (b) for requirements and guidelines for telepractice (in the Act it's called "Remote Services" and/or "practicing remotely").
2. ASHA Resources
 - a. ASHA's Tracking of State Provisions and Policies
<https://www.asha.org/uploadedFiles/COVID-19-State-Medicaid-Telepractice-Policy-Tracking.pdf>
 1. Illinois; approves telehealth services provided by SLPs for the duration of the Gubernatorial Disaster Proclamation
<https://www2.illinois.gov/Documents/ExecOrders/2020/ExecutiveOrder-2020-09.pdf>
 2. Early Intervention Live Video Visits Policy (**see #11 specific to services provided by assistants**); supervision is still required.
https://www.ishail.org/filebin/News/Illinois_Part_C_Early_Intervention_Live_Video_Visits-EI_TeletherapyN04062020.pdf
 - b. Payment and Coverage of Telepractice
<https://www.asha.org/Practice/reimbursement/Reimbursement-of-Telepractice-Services/>
 - c. School based Medicaid Services
 - i. <https://www.asha.org/practice/reimbursement/medicaid/SchoolBasedServicesSLP/>
 - ii. <https://www.asha.org/practice/reimbursement/medicaid/claimsFAQ/#1>
 - d. Work Setting Resources
 - i. Schools <https://www.asha.org/slp/schools/>
 - ii. Telepractice <https://www.asha.org/Practice-Portal/Professional-Issues/Telepractice/>
 - e. Synchronous vs. Asynchronous Telepractices
 - i. <https://www.asha.org/Practice-Portal/Professional-Issues/Telepractice/> (same as information linked in 2.b.ii above).
 - ii. <https://pubs.asha.org/doi/pdf/10.1044/nnsld21.3.83>
 - iii. Based on the above ASHA published article, and relative to school-based services via telepractice, I understand that "synchronous" refers to providing activities while working directly with one or more students vs. "asynchronous" which may refer to providing activities via links or scanned worksheets for parents to complete with their IEP'd children for therapists to review and gather data later.
 - f. ASHA's Code of Ethics <https://www.asha.org/Code-of-Ethics/>
3. Medicaid Handbooks
 - a. <https://www.illinois.gov/hfs/SiteCollectionDocuments/092818LEAHdbkPolicyAudiologyRefFinal.pdf>
 - b. **Services provided by parents, foster parents, or adult siblings are not covered** (see page 9 of the Handbook for LEAs linked in 3a). In other words, sending activities home for parents to complete with their IEP'd children does not constitute "services provided by a qualified healthcare provider" such as an SLP. However, the preparation of activities could fall under billable administrative activities.
 - c. Telemedicine Taskforce Recommendations: though this document was written in 2018, it may give you some background and/or clarification relative to telemedicine (or telepractice) standards for Illinois.
<https://www.illinois.gov/hfs/SiteCollectionDocuments/TelemedicineTaskforceRecommendations102918.pdf>

4. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
<https://www.cms.gov/Medicare-Medicaid-Coordination/Fraud-Prevention/FraudAbuseforProfs/index?redirect=/FraudAbuseforProfs/>
5. Medicaid.gov--TeleMedicine (also linked on ASHA's "Payment and Coverage of Telepractice" (2a listed above)
 - a. <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/benefits/telemedicine/index.html>
 - b. Excerpt from this link: "**Asynchronous or "Store and Forward"**: Transfer of data from one site to another through the use of a camera or similar device that records (stores) an image that is sent (forwarded) via telecommunication to another site for consultation. **Asynchronous or "store and forward" applications would not be considered telemedicine but may be utilized to deliver services.**"
6. Medicaid Billing (at all times, not just during COVID-19): All services provided to Medicaid-eligible students by SLPAs are billable to Medicaid as long as the SLPA is "...under the direct supervision of a qualified SLP..."; services will be billed under the supervising SLP's information and the supervising SLP must co-sign the documentation.
 - a. Speech/Language paraprofessional, assistant, aide or intern practicing **under the supervision of a qualified speech/language pathologist**. "Under the direction of" is defined as work performed under the guidance and direction of a supervisor who is responsible for the work, who plans work and methods, who is available on short notice to answer questions and deal with problems that are not strictly routine, who regularly (at least monthly) reviews the work performed, and who is accountable for the results. **The supervisor must co-sign documentation of all services provided by practitioners under his or her direction.**
 - b. <https://www.illinois.gov/hfs/SiteCollectionDocuments/092818LEAHdbkPolicyAudiologyRefFinal.pdf>
7. ISHA's website
 - a. <https://www.ishail.org/telepractice>
 - b. Telepractice Committee--pretty much shares links to ASHA resources and continuing ed.
8. IDEA and OSEP (if you google OSEP, it will take you to the webpage, and you can sign up for updates from this office; I have been receiving important updates all through this quarantine...very helpful!). OSEP = Office of Special Education Programs (federal).
 - a. <https://sites.ed.gov/idea/newsletters/#2020>
 - b. https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/frontpage/faq/rr/policyguidance/Supple%20Fact%20Sheet%203.21.20%20FINAL.pdf?utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_name=&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term=
 - c. https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USED/bulletins/283f866#link_7
9. ISBE--All Things COVID-19
 - a. <https://www.isbe.net/Pages/covid19.aspx>
 - b. I believe you will find many resources here to help with attorney general, state ,and ISBE guidance, announcements, declarations, etc.
 - c. I thought I'd find the "informed consent" statement in one of Pritzker's state updates; the only one I could find had to do with consent for online evals (if appropriate) or consent to post-pone evaluations if parents did not want online testing completed.

10. Governor's Executive Order 2020-35 dated May 1st, 2020:

<https://www2.illinois.gov/Pages/Executive-Orders/ExecutiveOrder2020-35.aspx>

- a. **“WHEREAS**, the Illinois Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Practice Act, 225 ILCS 110/8.8, mandates that a speech-language pathology assistant be under the direct supervision of a speech-language pathologist, which requires in-person contact; and...
- b. **THEREFORE**, by the powers vested in me as the Governor of the State of Illinois, and pursuant to Sections 7(1), 7(2), 7(8), and 7(12) of the Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act, 20 ILCS 3305, I hereby order the following, **effective immediately and for the remainder of the duration of the Gubernatorial Disaster Proclamations**:
 - i. Section 15: The provision of the Illinois Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Practice Act, 225 ILCS 110/8.8(e), defining “direct supervision” of speech-language pathology assistants as **“on-site, in-view observation and guidance by a speech-language pathologist”** is suspended for the limited purpose of **allowing speech-language pathology assistants to receive supervision by speech-language pathologists by way of video conferencing technology**.

11. New ASHA certification standards for SLPAs--effective 7/1/2020

- a. <https://www.asha.org/Certification/2020-SLPA-Certification-Standards/>
- b. C-SLPA

Additional ASHA resource:

COVID-19: TRACKING OF STATE LAWS AND REGULATIONS FOR TELEPRACTICE AND LICENSURE POLICY (Updated 8/4/2020)

https://www.asha.org/uploadedfiles/state-telepractice-policy-covid-tracking.pdf?_cf_chl_captcha_tk_=785372cb69db198184d205eb7da933ebbe700cba-1596577844-0-Aad-Wtjir_trBpnb7OcoXq-fKwj5C5YwShJfWFgDisopAGs1ule_qfBycsyTenBckL9is9noa8KO9KLhwyNiMK7B8pXaZKbLhp17VmTYZWNWIPMti_OI39d7liFBG05VjSW9IRZeag9IT4X1JkCeE5k-26QJttF07qvtAP5JTXld5MnjYdmjX7kZ2XODbEONWEibL2mUm8qn8BpVenCCXg0jgozCFJ9yFAKw-vfze-XK1KsdjtebrKPHKUIRAvdqfTOoPq2IZAlqg6U7MW-GoqACk-IP_T7TOr6-yUsEYiAOU6heu91-E_Cs2j-SCiHtnFUc6vOH_fc14k3YHmRfdZ3Jc0MTBAa4sV1Vf6_udRVLkEREUXO6h-HCA_IB863uNBHBspZByls6G7FXRvrugBDYs5RkxTDaoLHVYuQRH5aXji7NR1_Ck0QACSxfSR-qdC_1Wn7axkX2_mWj-zqUpwtCwfWoTw9CSxbHO0Xpo4I_S5bqS_KS-8zpg3rZxFjyF6i41PJOd59FwaP_Pt9giOkjqmaz9ulNQBZvBJJgbsuABHfqAD5lZPn9HTdt1CFp8W92MNP9BwMXRyekB-w4OHHLAcQ2F9T_rOJozgyzCMOQTomWKlcv9W_jXARdLw