

SEAL NEWSLETTER

The latest news and updates from ASHA and MSHA



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IN THIS ISSUE

ASHA ASSISTANTS

NEW STATE EDUCATION ADVOCACY LIAISON

NEW "I CONTRIBUTE" TOOLKIT FOCUS: MTSS AND OUR ROLE

ASHA SCHOOLS TOWN HALL MEETING AND DECEMBER TOPIC

MUSIC THERAPY

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT!

ASHA Assistants

As I am sure you are aware, each state has differing guidelines regarding assistants.. These guidelines differ in the amount of education required, evaluation requirements, and supervision requirements. ASHA is seeking to unify the states under one ASHA approved assistant program.

See the link above for the ASHA assistant website and more information.

New SEAL

It has been my great pleasure to serve MSHA as its SEAL for the past year. It has been quite a learning experience, and I pray that I made some small difference in your career lives. I will continue to serve as a member of the school committee where I look forward to working with other passionate members to improve school-based therapy in Mississippi.

I wish you all a safe and blessed holiday season, and a joyous new year.

*Sincerely,
Mallory*

"I Contribute": MTSS

SEALs from around the United States voted on our next "I Contribute" Toolkit focus.

Overwhelmingly, the SEALs voted to address our role as AUDs and SLPs in the MTSS process.

Thankfully Kelly Spence and Melissa Ladner Rivera addressed MTSS at this year's MSHA conference.

As they state, our main purposes are prevention, intervention, identification of communication disorders, to decrease caseload numbers, to decrease paperwork, increase professional development and collaboration between teachers and SLPs, and advocate for SLP's depth of knowledge in language. With the Access For All document, it is even more important that we define our role, define expectations of teachers, and gather materials/information to assist in the MTSS process.

"I Contribute" documents concerning MTSS will be added as they are released.

Below are links to Kelly and Melissa's presentation and the Mississippi Access For All document.



Town Hall and December Topic

The main topic from the ASHA Schools Town Hall meeting was retention and recruitment of speech language pathologists and audiologists to the schools arena. This was also the topic of the December SEAL call with ASHA.

How can you help? Get the word out about working in the schools. Talk to students and SLP/AuD friends and acquaintances about the benefits and even the challenges of school-based careers.

Important points:

- Know your audience.
- Know the MSHA outlook for schools
- Connect by any means available

Music Therapy

ASHA is opposed to licensure for music therapists (MTs) because it infringes on our Scope of Practice for SLPs, and because they are using billing codes designed for speech. Please see the picture below for more information on ASHA's position, and a link to the American Music Therapy Association.



In Case You Missed It!

September: Interstate Compact

August: Endrew F case, SLP Role in MTSS, Bilingual concerns

Summer: Speech Language Pathologist Forgivable Loan link:

<https://msfadv.wpengine.com/slp/>

May: IPP & IPE, Extender Services, Evidenced Based Practice

April: Healthy Communication and Popular Technology Initiative

March: Medicaid billing: How To Survive An Audit

February: ASHA's stance on Rapid Prompting Method and Facilitated Communication, ASHA Workload Calculator Trial

January: "I Contribute" Toolkit launched