

Speech Pathologist Position Statement High Plains Education Cooperative

Background:

High Plains Educational Cooperative (HPEC) currently has 12 Speech Language Pathologists (SLP's) on staff, serving 17 school districts. Services are provided to children, ages 3-21, with speech and/or language delays. SLP's provide intervention in many different settings including: school, home, and daycare. SLP's provide early intervention services (3-5) within the most natural setting. HPEC SLP's get the chance to work with school age students in a variety of settings including both pull-out and in-class models. Furthermore, SLP's get the chance to provide consultation services and to collaborate closely with other staff members.

Assessment:

HPEC SLP's provide assessment for articulation, language fluency, voice, reading, and writing. Both standardized and non-standardized testing materials are utilized. Because language skills are so closely tied to reading, HPEC SLP's evaluate reading skills as a part of the speech/language assessment. Areas assessed, for reading, include: Phonological/phonemic awareness, narrative assessment, and Rapid Automatic Naming (RAN). SLP's also strive to use data from the intervention process and are key collaborators for the Response to Intervention (RtI) teams.

Treatment:

SLP's are required to use Evidence Based Practices when coming up with treatment plans. The HPEC administration is supportive of continuing education opportunities and encourages its staff to be fully trained in the most recent and innovative practices. SLP's have the opportunity to work and collaborate with a variety of staff members when providing treatment, including: Interrelated teachers, general education staff, Early Childhood Special Education teachers, Occupational Therapists, Physical Therapists, and Adaptive PE specialists.

Categorical meetings:

HPEC SLP's meet 4 times a year as a group. This gives team members a chance to stay current with best practices within the field. It also gives the SLP's the chance to collaborate with fellow professionals who provide each other with a very supportive environment. During this time, SLP's get the chance to problem solve assessment and treatment issues.

Conclusion:

Speech Language Pathologist employed by High Plains Educational Cooperative have the opportunity to be a part of one of the most innovative and forward thinking special education cooperatives in the state. New challenges in special education are met head on, giving SLP's the chance to expand their knowledge base and provide the most well-rounded assessment and treatment for their students.