



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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CHRIS CHRISTIE
Governor

KIM GUADAGNO
Lt. Governor

DAVID C. HESPE
Acting Commissioner

October 21, 2014

TO: Chief School Administrators
Directors of Special Education
Administrators of State Facilities
Charter School Lead Persons
Administrators of Approved Private Schools for Students with Disabilities
Administrators of College-Operated Programs
Statewide Special Education Advisory Council
Agencies or Organizations Concerned with Special Education

FROM: Robert R. Higgins, Ph.D., Director
Office of Certification and Induction

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert R. Higgins".

Peggy McDonald, Director
Office of Special Education Programs

ROUTE TO: Human Resource Managers

SUBJECT: Deadline for Speech Correctionist Upgrade

This memo is to remind you that the deadline for individuals holding a valid New Jersey speech correctionist endorsement to serve in a position requiring speech-language specialist (SLS) certification is **August 31, 2015**. By this date, all individuals with a speech correctionist endorsement shall have obtained the speech-language specialist endorsement or completed a Department-approved retraining program. If not, these individuals may no longer serve in a position requiring SLS certification.

With respect to applicable regulations, on January 5, 2009, the New Jersey State Board of Education adopted amendments to N.J.A.C. 6A:9. In those amendments, N.J.A.C. 6A:9-13.6(d) was amended to permit individuals holding a valid New Jersey speech correctionist endorsement to serve in a position requiring SLS certification until **August 31, 2015**, by which date they shall have obtained the speech-language specialist endorsement or completed a Department-approved retraining program. The amendment represented an extension of the original deadline of December 31, 2009, allowing additional time for speech correctionists to complete either a master's program for the standard speech-language specialist endorsement or the speech upgrade requirements for the speech-language specialist equivalent certificate, and ensuring that there would be no reduction in the number of appropriately

certified providers while the process was ongoing. Information regarding the speech upgrade retraining program, offered by Kean University with support from the Office of Special Education Programs, was initially distributed in 1998 and extensive outreach to speech correctionists about the opportunity to meet the upgrade requirements has occurred over the past 15 years. If you have any questions, please contact Judy Cifone, manager, Certification and Induction, at (609) 984-6377.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

RH/PM/RS/JW/Deadline for Speech Correctionist Upgrade 10.14.14.docx

c: Members, State Board of Education
David Hespe, Acting Commissioner
Senior Staff
Diane Shoener
Executive County Superintendents
Executive Directors of Regional Achievement Centers
Executive County Business Officials
County Supervisors of Child Study
NJ LEE Group
Garden State Coalition of Schools
Department-approved Clinics and Agencies