

IS A CAREER AS A SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST RIGHT FOR YOU?



WHAT IS A SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST?

A speech-language pathologist (SLP) working in schools helps students who have speech, language, and social-communication challenges. An SLP evaluates, diagnoses, and provides a variety of interventions to students. SLPs learn about and use skills relating to anatomy, physiology, technology, psychology, behavior, and education in their work with students.

WHAT DOES AN SLP DO IN SCHOOLS?

- Teaches students who cannot speak to use technology devices as their “voice” for communication.
- Teaches techniques to promote safe eating and drinking.
- Teaches students strategies to correctly produce sounds in words, sentences, and conversations.
- Teaches students strategies so they can understand, organize, and recall language.
- Teaches students how to use correct word order and grammar.
- Works with students with diverse needs (such as autism, traumatic brain injury, deaf and hard of hearing, dyslexia, and cognitive impairment) from kindergarten through 12th grade.
- Acts as a liaison between the medical and educational worlds.

YOU MIGHT ENJOY THIS CAREER FIELD IF YOU LIKE TO:

- Have variety in your daily schedule – no two days are the same.
- Solve problems.
- Work with children and adolescents.
- Work in a variety of areas such as science, technology, literacy, and hearing.
- Make a difference in the lives of individuals with speech, language, and social communication needs.

VOICES FROM THE FIELD: MEET A SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST

“ We don't just do Ss and Rs...speech therapy is so much more than that! ”

Christina Rojas
Speech-Language Pathologist
School District of Lancaster

Scan the QR code to watch the interview.



HOW TO BECOME A SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST IN PENNSYLVANIA:

Becoming an SLP is a two-step process of completing a bachelor's degree program and a master's degree program in communication sciences and disorders or in speech-language pathology.

There are over **20 approved programs** in Pennsylvania that provide the coursework for you to become an SLP. Many colleges and universities offer programs where students earn both their bachelor's and master's degrees in five years.

