



2012 ANNUAL REPORT

EB OFFICE: Vice President: School Issues
NAME: Rachel Powel

1. Primary Accomplishments of 2012

The VP: School Issues was the committee chair for the development of a MSHA Video promoting the Roles, Responsibilities, and Value of Master's level SLPs. The MSHA Board voted to allocate funds for the project, and the Board voted to hire the Mann Agency for the project. Partial filming has been completed and will continue in 2013, with distribution of the video in the Spring of 2013. The video will be distributed to legislators, school superintendents and administrators, and other pertinent individuals to promote the value of SLPs.

The VP: School Issues met with the MDE in October and finalized the MSHA member questions and answers submitted to MDE in 2011. This document will serve as an official MDE document, and will address questions and answers related to evaluations, eligibility determinations, IEPs, and service provisions. The schools committee worked on completing the Handbook for SLPs in Schools, including alignment for IEP goals with the Common Core State Standards. The schools committee is working on finalizing the document, and it will be distributed through MSHA and submitted to the MDE.

2. Major Challenges

The MDE passed the new 216 license for Bachelor's level SLPs, and after much work with the 216 Task Force, the MDE is distributing information on the implementation of the 216 license. The MDE's recommendations for implementation varied from the recommendations of the Task Force, and MSHA has communicated with the MDE regarding differences in the MDE recommendations and Best Practice as defined by ASHA. MSHA will continue to work with MDE and monitor the implementation of the 216 license.

The MDE is implementing a new teacher evaluation system, MSTAR, and its impact on SLPs and their evaluations is yet to be determined.

The Mississippi legislature passed HB 1031 and HB 1032, new laws regarding dyslexia screening and treatment in schools. Challenges related to this law include the screening of all kindergarten and first grade students for dyslexia required in schools. SLPs are defined as individuals who can diagnose dyslexia, but further clarification of the SLP's role in dyslexia is needed.

3. Plans/Directions for 2013

Distribute the Handbook for SLPs in Schools through MSHA and submit to the MDE.

Continue to monitor the implementation of the 216 license, as it will be in effect July 2013.

Continue open communications with MDE regarding all issues related to language/speech services in schools, including revisions to the MDE SPED Policies, and the impact of the MSTAR evaluation system.

Continue to monitor legislation regarding the dyslexia laws, and promote the role of SLPs in dyslexia.

Complete and distribute the MSHA video promoting the Roles, Responsibilities, and Value of Master's level SLPs