



OREGON  
SPEECH-LANGUAGE  
& HEARING  
ASSOCIATION

May 1, 2016

Dear Director:

Improving student outcomes is the heart of what you do.

The Oregon Speech-Language and Hearing Association (OSHA) is the professional association representing more than 1,640 Speech-Language Pathologists in the state of Oregon. In alliance with our national professional organization, the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA), we want to help you achieve better outcomes for your students with Communication Disorders, including those with language-learning disabilities.

Research indicates that students with Communication Disorders need specially-designed instruction on an IEP for **shorter periods of time when treatment groups are small (no more than 3 students)** and when Speech-Language Pathologists have **caseloads of fewer than 40 students**. (Schooling 2000, 2003; Karr & Schooling 2001; Chiang & Rylance 2000). Please scroll down to see outcomes graphs. Large caseloads for Speech-Language Pathologists can have a direct impact on FAPE and can put districts **at risk for due process complaints**. (Brandel & Loeb, 2011) Additionally, a report released February 8, 2016, by the U.S. General Accountability Office, indicates that the burden of paperwork associated with providing Special Education services is **"onerous and duplicative"** and that critical Special Education funds could be better spent **reducing caseloads**.

When planning for the special education staffing needs of your district, we encourage you to support the recommended caseload size of fewer than 40 students per full-time Speech-Language Pathologist in order to maximize student outcomes, minimize the potential for due process complaints, and align your district with congressional recommendations.

Please feel free to contact OSHA Board representative Debra Levinson (dtlevinson@comcast.net) with any questions:

Our very best wishes for your success,

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President, OSHA

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