

**Subject: School Speech-Language Specialist Certification/Licensure**

**Legal Reference:**

[RSA 21-N:9](#), II(s); [RSA 186:8](#); [RSA 186:11](#); [RSA 189:14-e](#); [RSA 326-F:2](#); [Ed 507.23](#) (d) ; [Ed 508.06](#)

*This Technical Advisory provides the New Hampshire Department of Education's communication regarding the requirement of the commissioner of education to collect fees for the issuance of educational credentials from Speech-Language Specialists licensed in the state of New Hampshire as a speech-language pathologist by the governing board of speech-language pathology.*

New Hampshire RSA 21-N:9, RSA 186:8, and RSA 186:11, require the New Hampshire State Board of Education to adopt rules relative to minimum standards for certification standards for educational personnel, and educator certification fees for granting credentials to educational personnel, including [...] speech-language specialists.

New Hampshire RSA 186:11, X (a) requires the New Hampshire State Board of Education to examine the qualifications of candidates [...] and issue certificates to those who meet the requirements of said rules.

New Hampshire RSA 186:11, X (b) requires fees to be paid to the commissioner of education for [...] the *issuance of educational credentials*.

New Hampshire Administrative Rule Ed 507.23 sets forth the entry level requirements and required skills, competencies, and knowledge that a candidate shall meet, through a combination of academic and supervised practical experiences, in order to receive certification as a speech-language specialist.

**Speech-Language Specialists** (RSA 189:14-e)

I. (a) The department of education shall certify speech-language specialists pursuant to RSA 21-N:9, II(s). Certified speech-language specialists shall provide non-medically necessary speech-language pathology services for schools only.

(b) The department of education shall establish the *criteria for certification* as a speech-language specialist which shall include a minimum of a master's degree in speech-language pathology, or its equivalent as determined by the state board of education.

II. Speech-language pathologists licensed pursuant to RSA 326-F and 328-F shall automatically meet *certification requirements* under this section.

**Department comment:** *This statute requires the State Board of Education to establish the criteria for certification as a speech-language specialist. The statute also requires the department of education to certify qualified speech-language specialists. Finally, the statute makes clear that speech-language pathologists licensed pursuant to RSA 326-F and RSA 328-F automatically meet certification requirements.*

**School Speech-Language Specialist.** (Ed 507.23(d) / RSA 326-F:2, I(a))

**1. Ed 507.23(d)**

(d) Any person who is licensed in the state of New Hampshire as a speech-language pathologist by the governing board of speech-language pathology shall be considered to have *met the requirements* of Ed 507.23.

**2. RSA 326-F:2, I(d)**

I. The following persons are exempt from the licensure and certification requirements of this chapter and RSA 328-F:

(a) Speech-language specialists who are certified under rules adopted by the board of education pursuant to RSA 21-N:9, II(s), unless they are also licensed under this chapter.

**Department comment:** *The Ed 507 series is titled "REQUIREMENTS AND CERTIFICATION FOR EDUCATIONAL PERSONNEL IN SPECIFIC AREAS." Ed 507.23 establishes the entry level requirements a candidate shall meet, in order to receive certification as a speech-language specialist. Only those individuals providing non-medically necessary speech language specialist services in a K-12 public school and holding the title of speech language specialist shall be required to be licensed. The rule makes clear that a person licensed by the governing board of speech-language pathology is considered to have met the requirements of Ed 507.23; however, **Ed 507.23 does not make mention of "fees" and does not state that a person licensed by the governing board of speech-language pathology is considered to have met the requirements of Ed 508.06.** Accordingly, the commissioner of education must collect fees for issuance of educational credentials from Speech-Language Specialists applicants only.*

**Department comment:** *For speech-language specialists, the Department reads Ed 508.06(b) to require submission of the enumerated requirements of Ed 507.23 or proof of licensure in the state of New Hampshire as a speech-language pathologist by the governing board of speech-language pathology **and** the proper fee if the individual is performing non-medically necessary speech language specialist duties and holds the title of Speech Language Specialist.*

For assistance or to address questions or concerns:

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