



Department
of Education

Ted Strickland, Governor
Deborah S. Delisle, Superintendent of Public Instruction

August 6, 2009

Dear Administrator:

As you know, Ohio schools face persistent shortages in available qualified speech language pathologists. The Ohio Department of Education and OMNIE (Ohio Master's Network- Initiatives in Education) are providing five initiatives which offer relief for school districts. The State Board of Education is funding these programs to address the immediate and future availability of professionals to deliver quality speech language pathology services to Ohio's special education students. Complete program details are available on the OMNIE website: www.omnie.org

1. [Internship Model Graduate Program](#) will increase enrollment in SLP programs at Ohio universities by offering a paid two year full-time internship in hard-to-staff school districts. The school district's participation and commitment are required. In the past two years sixty-six (66) interns have been placed in hard-to-staff districts.
2. Financial incentives will be offered to SLPs who accept employment in hard-to-staff districts. Sign-on bonuses of \$12,000 are now available. Bonuses will be paid over three years of continued employment in the district: \$3,000 in the first year, \$3,000 in the second year, and \$6,000 in the third year. Additionally, \$2,000 in tuition reimbursement is offered to any new speech-language pathology graduating student who accepts school based employment. [School districts must apply](#) for SLP support.
3. [Collaborative Web-based Graduate Program](#) adds an additional cohort of 30 students each January. This 3-year part time graduate program offers student the opportunity to maintain their current employment and residence while completing the program. Students graduating from this program are expected to seek and accept school based employment following program completion.
4. OMNIE initiatives have been expanded, including Ohio's speech-language pathology [Employment Opportunities](#) link. Open school based SLP positions can be posted on the OMNIE website.
5. [Telepractice](#) and E-supervision programs are being developed to extend the use of technology to reach students and interns in rural regions of the state.

For additional information, contact Nada Allender, OMNIE Project Coordinator, at nada@ameritech.net or by phone, 330-699-4019.

Sincerely,

Louis L. Staffilino, Associate Superintendent
Center for the Teaching Profession
Ohio Department of Education