



Louis L. Staffilino

Superintendent of Public Instruction

Associate Superintendent

January 26, 2007

Dear Administrator:

As you know, Ohio schools face persistent shortages in available, qualified speech-language pathologists (SLPs). The Ohio Department of Education has partnered with Ohio Master's Network-Initiatives in Education (OMNIE) to provide relief for school districts. The State Board of Education is funding a proposal to address the immediate and future availability of professionals to provide speech language pathology services to Ohio's special education students. There are five programs moving forward toward this goal. Details of the programs are available at [www.omnie.org](http://www.omnie.org) in the *Look What's New* section.

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 for program completion.** Fifty (50) students will be admitted for the September 2007 program. **Some SLP students currently in graduate school will be available for Internship placement as early as September 2007.**
2. Financial incentives will be offered to SLPs who agree to work in hard-to-staff districts. **A total of 61 sign-on bonuses of \$12,000** each will be available to SLPs in Ohio districts over a two-year period in the 2007-2008 and 2008-2009 academic years. Bonuses will be based on three years of continued employment in the district. The SLP will receive \$2,500 the first year, \$2,500 the second year and \$7,000 the third year. Additionally, **35 one-time only sign-on bonuses of \$4,000** will be available in 2007-2008 and 2008-2009 to SLPs in qualifying districts.
3. **Collaborative Web-based Graduate Program** will add **two additional cohorts of 30 students**, beginning January 2008, and January 2009. Students will be able to maintain current employment and residence while completing the program. Students will seek and accept school-based employment following program completion.
4. **OMNIE initiatives will be expanded**, including Ohio's SLP [Employment Opportunities](#) link.
5. **Telepractice and E-supervision pilot programs** will be developed to extend the use of technology to reach students and interns in hard-to-staff settings.

For additional information, contact Nada Allender, OMNIE Project Coordinator, at: [nada@ameritech.net](mailto:nada@ameritech.net) or by phone: 330-699-4019, or mail: 1898 White Chapel Cir. N.W., Uniontown OH 44685.

Sincerely,

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

