

**To:** Brad Sellner, Superintendent, Howard Lake Waverly Winsted Board Members  
**From:** Linda Wharram, Special Education Coordinator; Jen Olson, HES/WES Principal; Jim  
**Date:** August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021  
**Purpose:** District Speech Language Services

**Current FTE's for HLWW:** 1.0 Speech Language Pathologists to service the HLWW Schools and  
.6 Speech Language Pathology Assistant

**Current Scenario:** Resignation from Full Time Speech/Language Pathologist (SLP) at Winsted Elementary was received in late July. At the current time, we have not received any applications for the 2021-22 school year. The District is exploring various options to fill the 1.4 vacated SLP positions throughout the district.

**Proposal:** To increase the Speech/Language Pathology Assistant (SLPA) from a .6 FTE to a 1.0 FTE. Due to this position needing supervision from a Licensed SLP, this may be a contracted service for 4-6 hours a week if the District is unable to hire an SLP directly.

**What can a SLPA do?** An SLPA can assist with speech/language screening; provide direct service under SLP supervision, assist with due process paperwork/evaluation, preparation of materials and scheduling activities. An SLPA can provide instruction and program use of augmentative and alternative communication devices. The SLPA has to be supervised by a SLP who has two years of practice, holds current licensure and completes supervision coursework.

**Rationale:** The SLPA is hired replace the vacancy left by the resignation of the Speech/Language Pathologist. The intent was to increase this position to a 1.0 in the 2022-23 school year. This addition helps to provide on-site service to our younger learners who need direct speech therapy. The district currently has only one 1.0 FTE Speech/Language Therapist.

**Final Thoughts:** *The SLPA is a viable option for districts and we are one of the first in the area to consider this option. If you have further questions, please reach out via email or phone.*