

To: Brad Sellner, Superintendent, Howard Lake Waverly Winsted Board Members
From: Linda Wharram, Special Education Coordinator; Jen Olson, HES/WES Principal; Jim Schimelpfenig: HLWW MS Principal; Jason Mix, HLWW HS Principal
Date: April 23rd, 2021
Purpose: District Speech Language Services

Current FTE's for HLWW: 3.0 Speech Language Pathologists to service the HLWW Schools

Current Scenario: Resignation from one Full Time Speech/Language Pathologist. At the current time, we have not received any applications for the 2021-22 school year.

Proposal: Employ a Speech/Language Pathology Assistant (SLPA) at a .6 FTE and a .4 FTE Speech/Language Pathologist (SLP) to service Private Schools, Head Start, HLWW Middle School. This .4 FTE may need to be a contracted service if we are unable to hire a Speech Language Pathologist directly through the District.

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 SLPA is a cost savings to the district and the intent is to increase this position in the next year to 1.0 FTE. The district currently has an employee that will finish SLPA certification. This is a wonderful opportunity to utilize employees who further their career interests/passions.

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.*