

Mississippi Speech-Language-Hearing Association Legislative Report for the Week of 2.10.2026

Below is a legislative report on the specified Mississippi education bills, organized by major topic area. Each entry includes the bill number, name, author(s), current status, and a four-sentence narrative description.

Education Support and Salary Supplements for SLPs and Audiologists

Bill Number: Mississippi HB 1126

Bill Name: Educator Salary Supplement Enhancements Including SLPs and Audiologists

Author(s): Representative Jansen Owen (House bill lead sponsor noted in reporting summary)

Current Status: Introduced and referred to the House Education Committee (January 19 2026)

Narrative: This bill would amend state education statutes to expand eligibility for state salary supplements to include licensed speech-language pathologists and audiologists holding a Certificate of Clinical Competence from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association employed by local school boards. Under the proposal, these professionals would qualify for full or prorated state salary supplements when required documentation is submitted within specified deadlines. It also would allow reimbursement to districts for costs incurred in completing national certification components for these specialists. The measure reflects a broader policy effort in Mississippi to bolster recruitment and retention of communication disorders specialists in public K-12 education.

Expanded Role Recognition and Instructional Authority

Bill Number: Mississippi HB 2

Bill Name: Mississippi Educational Freedom Program Act (SLP and Audiologist Provisions)

Author(s): House leadership and the House Education Committee (multiple sponsors indicated in bill text)

Current Status: Passed the House and advanced (as passed the House)

Narrative: Mississippi HB 2 is a broad educational reform bill that, among many provisions, recognizes licensed speech-language pathologists and audiologists for purposes of state salary supplements tied to national certification. The bill sets eligibility criteria for these specialists, aligning them with counselors and other certified educators for supplement qualification based on holding a Certificate of Clinical Competence from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. It also clarifies the inclusion of speech-language pathologists and audiologists in instructional roles within charter schools and related

instructional settings. The inclusion of these provisions highlights legislative acknowledgment of the critical role these communication specialists play in addressing student needs across public and charter education sectors.