

## COALITION TO ADDRESS PERSONNEL SHORTAGES IN SPECIAL EDUCATION AND RELATED SERVICES



### INFORMATION

#### "AT A GLANCE"

- Established in 2005
- Modeled after the National Coalition on Personnel Shortages in Special Education and Related Services
- Addresses Nevada's school-based personnel shortages of audiologists, counselors, nurses, occupational therapists, physical therapists, psychologists, social workers, speech-language pathologists, and special education teachers
- Collaborates with Nevada Department of Education (NDE), NDE's Office of Inclusive Education and NDE's Division of Educator Effectiveness and Family Engagement
- Supports six projects that target recruitment, selection, training, and retention strategies of special education and related service providers
- Holds quarterly stakeholder meetings: January, April, July, October

### GOAL

The goal of the Coalition is to begin and sustain a statewide discussion among service providers, administrators, university representatives, legislators, consumers, and parents of children and youth receiving services about the need for and value of recruiting and retaining highly qualified, highly effective providers of special education, related services, and early intervention services to children and youth throughout Nevada.

### MISSION

The mission of the Coalition is to identify, disseminate, and support implementation of strategies to remedy personnel shortages of service providers for children and youth with disabilities, and persistent vacancies in those areas at the state and local levels for the benefit of all children and youth throughout Nevada.

### WHAT AND WHY

Nevada school districts continue to face persistent personnel shortages in special education and related services. A statewide effort, the NSHA Coalition to Address Personnel Shortages in Special Education and Related Services is supported by the Nevada Speech Language and Hearing Association (NSHA) in collaboration with the Nevada Department of Education (NDE).

# SIX TARGET PROJECTS

The Coalition's six (6) targeted projects align with and address the Nevada Department of Education's (NDE) vision of "All Nevadans ready for success in the 21st Century," and mission "To improve student achievement and educator effectiveness by ensuring opportunities, facilitating learning, and promoting excellence."

The Coalition targets nine (9) school-based professions: school audiologists (educational audiologists), school counselors, school nurses, occupational therapists, physical therapists, school psychologists, school social workers, school-based speech-language pathologists, and special education teachers.

- 01** **General Consulting**: Supporting the collaborative efforts of the NDE and Coalition to address the specific needs of special education teachers and related service providers by increasing and expanding professional learning
- 02** **Get the Word Out" Campaign**: Promoting school-based careers and career opportunities in the education, health, and helping professions
- 03** **Medicaid**: Supporting the participation of Nevada school districts in Nevada Medicaid's School Health Services (SHS)
- 04** **Related Service Professional Learning**: Supporting professional learning projects as directed by NDE staff to support the recruitment, selection, training, and retention of highly effective related service personnel
- 05** **Teacher Shortage Area Loan Forgiveness**: Supporting Nevada's participation in the U.S. Department of Education's "Teacher Shortage Area" designation program
- 06** **Technical Assistance**: Supporting collaborative partnership to expand opportunities for advanced degree programs to address Nevada's personnel shortages and meet the needs of children and youth with disabilities

## CONTACTS

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National Coalition on Personnel Shortages [www.specialedshortages.org](http://www.specialedshortages.org) Nevada Department of Education [www.doe.nv.gov](http://www.doe.nv.gov)

Nevada Speech-Language-Hearing Association [www.nvsha.org](http://www.nvsha.org)

Nevada Speech-Language Hearing Association/Nevada Coalition [www.nvcoalition.com](http://www.nvcoalition.com)