Dear

Improving student outcomes is the heart of what you do.

The Oregon Speech-Language and Hearing Association (OSHA) is the professional association representing more than 1,640 Speech-Language Pathologists in the state of Oregon. In alliance with our national professional organization, the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA), we want to help you achieve better outcomes for your students with Communication Disorders, including those with language-learning disabilities.

Research indicates that students with Communication Disorders need specially-designed instruction on an IEP for a **shorter duration of time when treatment groups are small (no more than 3 students) and when Speech-Language Pathologists have caseloads of fewer than 40 students.** (Schooling 2000, 2003; Karr & Schooling 2001; Chiang & Rylance 2000; please see attached outcomes graphs).

Large caseloads for Speech-Language Pathologists can have a direct impact on FAPE and can put districts at risk for due process complaints. (Brandel & Loeb, 2011) Additionally, a report released February 8, 2016, by the U.S. General Accountability Office, indicates that **the burden of paperwork associated with providing Special Education services is "onerous and duplicative" and that critical Special Education funds could be better spent reducing caseloads.**

When planning for the special education staffing needs of your district, we encourage you to please **support the recommended caseload size of fewer than 40 students per full-time Speech-Language Pathologist** in order to maximize student outcomes, minimize the potential for due process complaints, and align your district with congressional recommendations.

Please feel free to contact OSHA Schools-Based Speech-Language Pathology Professional Affiliate Debra Levinson with any questions: dtlevinson@comcast.net

Our very best wishes for your success,

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