

## August 2020 Washington State SEAL Report

### June 2020 SEAL Call

Topic: Open Reporting from SEALs about COVID situation in states

- Several state associations have had to cancel their state conference/convention. Some have offered online courses instead, or moved conferences to a virtual format.
- Some state associations have been holding monthly Zoom meetings and/or Town Halls as a forum for members to share.
- State associations have been doing funding advocacy to minimize reductions in funding to education services.
- School reopening plans vary across the country. Some are looking at various hybrid models and others are planning to return to in-person school.
  - Some states have been publishing telepractice guidelines for providers and for families acting as facilitators.
  - Safety is a concern with any reopening model. Some districts have committed to providing PPE for school staff, while others are expecting staff to provide their own PPE.
  - Several states/districts have gathered task forces to plan school reopening. Surveys are also being used to gather input from families and staff.
  - Other concerns brought up include: childcare issues, safety on busses, providing technology to families, and licensure issues with SLPs who live in a different state than they work in (many states have waived the licensure requirements around this to support SLPs and students).

### July 2020 SEAL Call

Topic: Joint call between SEALs, STARs, and STAMPS

- Tim Boyd from ASHA's State Affairs Office, shared about Telepractice Trends across the country
  - ASHA is tracking telehealth policy in the states during COVID and trying to keep their resources updated.
  - At this time, it isn't clear which policy changes are set to expire (emergency provisions) and which will continue.
  - ASHA is advocating for states to allow providers to serve clients in different states (out of state teletherapy).
  - ASHA is also advocating for states to make sure they have clear, strong emergency procedures in place in case a situation like this arises again in the future.
- Update on Interstate Compact
  - 12 states introduced legislation around the interstate compact this year and 6 passed.

- They estimate that they will get to 10 states in 2021, at which time they can start the compact commission
- The compact would require all participating states to meet the same requirements for licensure.
- SLPs would be licensed in their home state (the state that is on their driver's license). They could then apply for "privilege to practice" in other compact states.
- Military personnel/military spouses would be able to designate a home state, since they move so often.
- The interstate compact does not include school-specific licenses that are required to practice in schools in various states (such as the ESA certification in Washington)
- Medicaid Update
  - Medicaid continues to be the largest payer for healthcare
  - More states have expanded Medicaid and more states have expanded it for telepractice (even before COVID)

#### August 2020 SEAL Call

Topic: Open Reporting from SEALs about COVID situation/school reopening in states

- SEAL Champions shared about ASHA Connect presentations. Both of their sessions were well attended.
- Some state associations are adding COVID information and resources to their websites. A few state organizations have put out guidance for school SLPs
- States have a variety of back-to-school plans, which include fully remote, various hybrid models, and fully in-person. There aren't any unified approaches to reopening.
  - Many districts are providing technology resources to their students (e.g., chromebooks, internet access, etc)
  - ASHA has a new page dedicated to school reopening
  - SEALs noted that a hybrid workload calculator would be helpful. ASHA's School Services Team will work on this in collaboration with some of the SEALs.