

BD OF EXAMINERS IN SPEECH PATHOLOGY & AUDIOLOGY

Enabling Laws

Act 43 of 2003
A.C.A. §17-100-101 et. seq.

History and Organization

The Arkansas Board of Examiners in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology (ABESPA) was formed in 1975 through enabling legislation, Act 277. Act 121 revised parts of the original legislation in 1993 and in 1995 Act 826 was passed allowing use of speech-language pathology assistants. Rules and Regulations were originally promulgated April 12, 1996 with the latest revision dated April 19, 2002.

The Board is composed of eight (8) members. These include five (5) professionals in Speech Pathology and Audiology (at least 2 from each field), a consumer representative, a public representative, and a senior citizen. The members are appointed by the Governor for three (3) year terms. A member may serve two (2) full consecutive terms.

The mission of this Board is to help assure the availability of the highest possible quality speech-language pathology and audiology services to the communicatively handicapped people of this State by strict licensing requirements and mandatory continuing professional education and to protect the public from being misled by incompetent, unscrupulous, and unauthorized persons and from unprofessional conduct on the part of qualified speech-language pathologists and audiologists.

ABESPA examines the credentials and qualifications of Speech Pathologists, Speech Pathology Assistants, and Audiologists who wish to provide services to the citizens of Arkansas. A license or registration is issued to those individuals who meet the qualifications. After licensure, each professional is required to meet mandatory continuing education requirements, which are monitored by the Board. ABESPA also acts on behalf of consumers by investigating complaints, conducting hearings, and taking disciplinary action, when warranted, to ensure that quality Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology services are delivered.



Agency Commentary

Granting and maintaining licenses and registrations for Speech-Language Pathologists, Speech Pathology Assistants, and Audiologists is an ongoing function of the Board of Examiners in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology according to Act 277, Act 121, and Act 826. The operations of the Board, which includes one full-time employee and one part time extra help position, are funded from the receipt of fees charged by the Agency.

The Board is requesting Base Level and a \$3,000 salary increase in addition to any COLA approved by the Governor for FY 06 & FY07. This Extraordinary Salary Increase is merited to compensate for the additional workload due to increasing numbers of licensees and associated duties required to maintain the efficient operation of daily activities within the Office. Other duties such as maintenance of a website, supervising an extra help position, and yearly attendance of state and national meetings have been added to the Office Manager. An additional \$3,000 for FY06 and \$4,000 for FY07 for Extra Help (01) is requested in lieu of adding another regular position which would include other expenses for benefits. An increase of \$6,250 for Operating Expenses (02) for FY06 and \$5,250 for FY07 is requested which includes \$2,500 to update computer equipment in FY06 and \$1,500 for FY07. The remaining increase of \$3,750 is to keep up with the costs of office supplies, board member travel, and to add an additional phone line for internet access. Due to rising costs of travel, an additional \$1,250 is requested for each fiscal year for Travel (09) to cover costs associated with the Office Manager's travel to state and national meetings. Under Professional Fees and Services (10), an additional \$3,200 is being requested for FY06 and \$2,200 for FY07 for expenses anticipated to revise the current rules and regulations and the ongoing investigation of complaints.

Audit Findings

DIVISION OF LEGISLATIVE AUDIT
AUDIT OF :
STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS IN SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY AND AUDIOLOGY
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2003

Findings	Recommendations
None	None

Employment Summary

	Male	Female	Total	%
White Employees	0	1	1	100 %
Black Employees	0	0	0	0 %
Other Racial Minorities	0	0	0	0 %
Total Minorities			0	0 %
Total Employees			1	100 %

Cash Fund Balance Description as of June 30, 2004

Fund Account	Balance	Type	Location
3290000	\$249,130	Checking, Treasury	Bank of America, State

Statutory/Other Restrictions on use:

ACA 17-100-206

Statutory Provisions for Fees, Fines, Penalties:

ACA 17-100-206

Revenue Receipts Cycle:

Revenue is collected throughout the year; however, most of the fees are collected during renewal time in the month of June.

Fund Balance Utilization:

Since the largest proportion of fees are collected at the end of the fiscal year, funds are carried over for use in carrying out the business of the office.

Publications

A.C.A 25-1-204

Name	Statutory Authorization	Required for		# Of Copies	Reason (s) for Continued Publication and Distribution
		Governor	General Assembly		
Consumer Information Brochure	ABESPA Rules & Regulations Section 1.8	N	N	250	Provided to all licensees for use in offices and clinics.
Licensure Directory	ABESPA Rules & Regulations Section 1.8	N	N	1,480	Required by rules and regulations for use by licensees and others

Analysis of Budget Request

Appropriation / Program: A12 - Cash Operations

Funding Sources: 329-Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology-Cash

The Arkansas Board of Examiners in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology was created by Act 277 of 1975, Arkansas Code Annotated 17-100-201, to safeguard the public health, safety, and welfare by providing regulatory authority over persons offering Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology services to the citizens of Arkansas. The Board is a cash agency funded from application, examination and license renewal fees charged pursuant to Arkansas Code Annotated §17-100-206.

Base Level for this appropriation includes graduated salary increases of 3% to 1.5% each year over FY05 salary levels, along with related Personal Services Matching costs for one **(1)** Base Level position. Included in Personal Services Matching is a \$40 increase in the monthly contribution for State employee's health insurance for a total State match of \$320 per month.

The Arkansas Board of Examiners in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology is requesting Base Level of \$98,889 in FY06 & \$100,328 in FY07 and a Change Level total of \$17,497 in FY06 & \$16,573 in FY07. Change Level totals include an increase of \$8,432 in FY06 & \$8,508 in FY07 allocated between Operating, Professional Fees and Services, & Travel & Conferences for office supplies, printing, advertising, board member travel, & dues that are expected to increase during the biennium due to inflation and an increase of additional new licensees. This request also includes additional Extra Help cost of \$3,000 in FY06 and \$4,000 in FY07. This is for one (1) Extra Help position that is used during the license renewal time and will be needed more due to an increase in license renewals. An increase is requested in the amount of \$2,500 in FY06 and \$1,500 in FY07 to purchase a new computer for the office and to make necessary and overdue software upgrades. An Extraordinary Salary Increase is requested in the amount of \$3,000 for FY06 & \$3,000 for FY07 for the Office Manager due to an increase in work load and additional responsibilities and duties required. This increase will raise Personal Services and Matching by \$797 in FY06 & \$873 in FY07.

The Executive Recommendation provides for the Agency Request without the Extraordinary Salary Increase request.

Appropriation / Program Summary

Appropriation / Program: A12 Cash Operations
Funding Sources: 329-Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology-Cash

Historical Data

Agency Request and Executive Recommendation

Commitment Item		Historical Data			Agency Request and Executive Recommendation			Agency Request and Executive Recommendation		
		2003-2004 Actual	2004-2005 Budget	2004-2005 Authorized	2005-2006			2006-2007		
					Base Level	Agency	Executive	Base Level	Agency	Executive
Regular Salaries	5010000	38,195	39,251	39,251	40,428	43,428	40,428	41,640	44,640	41,640
#Positions		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Extra Help	5010001	1,995	2,000	2,000	2,000	5,000	5,000	2,000	6,000	6,000
#Extra Help		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Personal Services Matching	5010003	10,197	10,869	10,465	11,595	12,392	11,827	11,822	12,695	12,130
Operating Expenses	5020002	35,998	37,566	37,566	37,566	43,816	43,816	37,566	42,816	42,816
Travel-Conference Fees	5050009	2,664	2,000	2,000	2,000	3,250	3,250	2,000	3,250	3,250
Professional Fees and Services	5060010	762	5,300	5,300	5,300	8,500	8,500	5,300	7,500	7,500
Data Processing	5090012	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Capital Outlay	5120011	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total		89,811	96,986	96,582	98,889	116,386	112,821	100,328	116,901	113,336
Funding Sources										
Fund Balance	4000005	182,008	248,128		318,547	318,547	318,547	377,704	377,704	377,704
Cash Fund	4000045	155,931	167,405		158,046	175,543	171,978	167,683	184,256	180,691
Total Funding		337,939	415,533		476,593	494,090	490,525	545,387	561,960	558,395
Excess Appropriation/(Funding)		(248,128)	(318,547)		(377,704)	(377,704)	(377,704)	(445,059)	(445,059)	(445,059)
Grand Total		89,811	96,986		98,889	116,386	112,821	100,328	116,901	113,336

Change Level by Appropriation

Appropriation / Program: A12-Cash Operations

Funding Sources: 329-Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology-Cash

Agency Request

Change Level		2005-2006	Pos	Cumulative	% of BL	2006-2007	Pos	Cumulative	% of BL
BL	Base Level	98,889	1	98,889	100.0	100,328	1	100,328	100.0
C01	Existing Program	11,432	0	110,321	111.5	11,508	0	111,836	111.4
C08	Technology	2,500	0	112,821	114.0	1,500	0	113,336	112.9
C15	Ex Salary Increase	3,565	0	116,386	117.6	3,565	0	116,901	116.5

Executive Recommendation

Change Level		2005-2006	Pos	Cumulative	% of BL	2006-2007	Pos	Cumulative	% of BL
BL	Base Level	98,889	1	98,889	100.0	100,328	1	100,328	100.0
C01	Existing Program	11,432	0	110,321	111.5	11,508	0	111,836	111.4
C08	Technology	2,500	0	112,821	114.0	1,500	0	113,336	112.9
C15	Ex Salary Increase	0	0	112,821	114.0	0	0	113,336	112.9

Justification

C01	Increases requested in Operating are 3,750 in FY06 & FY07. Travel & Conference Fees increase requested is 1,250 for FY06 & FY07. Professional Fees and Services increase requested is 3,200 in FY06 and 2,220 in FY07. The increases are requested in office supplies, printing, advertising, board member travel, & dues. These expenses are expected to increase during the 2005-07 biennium due to inflation and needed to better accommodate citizens of Arkansas with our services and responsibilities to them.
C08	Increase requested for new computer and software upgrades is 2,500 in FY06 & 1,500 for FY07.
C15	Increase is requested for the Audiology Office Manager for 3,565 for FY06 & FY07 due to more responsibilities and duties required.