

Advocacy Template Letters – Stipends for SLPs in Schools for Supervision of Graduate Students and Clinical Fellows

Unions

[Your Name]
[Your Title/Position]
[Your School or Organization]
[Your Contact Information]
[Date]

[Union Leader's Name]
[Title]
[Teacher Union Name]
[Union Address]

Dear [Union Leader's Name],

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to bring attention to a critical matter that impacts the professional well-being of Speech-Language Pathologists (SLPs) in our district, as well as the future of our profession: **the need for appropriate stipends for SLPs who provide supervision to graduate students and Clinical Fellows.**

SLPs play a vital role in mentoring the next generation of practitioners by offering clinical supervision that is not only a requirement for licensure and certification, but also essential for developing highly qualified professionals who will serve our schools and students. This supervision demands significant time, responsibility, and adherence to professional standards set by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA). Yet, in many districts, SLPs undertake this task without any form of compensation or recognition.

In contrast to other education professionals who are compensated for supervising student teachers or interns, SLPs are often expected to absorb these duties in addition to their already full caseloads and documentation requirements. This inequity not only undervalues the expertise and commitment of our SLPs but also risks discouraging experienced professionals from taking on the supervision role — ultimately threatening the availability of future providers in a field already facing shortages.

We respectfully urge the union to advocate for a formal stipend for SLPs who supervise graduate students and Clinical Fellows, like stipends offered for other educational mentorship roles. Such recognition would affirm the value of their contribution and ensure sustainability in training high-quality professionals.

Thank you for your continued support of school-based professionals. We are confident that with your leadership, we can advance this important cause.

Sincerely,
[Your Full Name]
[SLP Credentials if applicable]
[Your Position/Role]

School District Administrator

****[Your Name]****

[Your Title/Position]

[Your School or Organization]

[Your Contact Information]

[Date]

****[Administrator's Name]****

[Title]

[School District or School Name]

[District Address]

Dear [Administrator's Name],

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to advocate for the implementation of a stipend for Speech-Language Pathologists (SLPs) who provide supervision to graduate students and Clinical Fellows within our schools.

As you know, supervision of graduate students and Clinical Fellows is a critical component to maintain and grow the pipeline for the field of speech-language pathology. Our SLPs generously volunteer their time and expertise to support these future professionals, ensuring that they meet the rigorous standards required by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) and state licensure boards. This is a substantial responsibility—one that requires planning, oversight, documentation, and frequent communication with academic institutions and professional bodies.

Currently, SLPs in our schools take on these supervision duties without any financial compensation or formal recognition, even though their counterparts in education—such as teachers supervising student teachers—are often offered stipends or other incentives. This disparity not only creates an inequity within our schools but also places an additional burden on SLPs who already manage demanding workloads.

Providing a modest stipend for this supervision work would offer several key benefits:

- Recognition and Retention: Valuing this work promotes morale and helps retain experienced SLPs.
- Recruitment: Supporting supervision helps maintain a steady pipeline of future professionals, which is essential given the nationwide shortage of qualified SLPs.
- Quality of Services: SLPs who supervise often engage in continued learning and mentorship practices that benefit student outcomes.

I respectfully urge the district to consider establishing a stipend for SLPs who take on these supervisory roles. Doing so would reflect a meaningful investment in both our current staff and the long-term sustainability of speech-language services in our schools.

Thank you for your leadership and ongoing support of student services. I would welcome the opportunity to further discuss this initiative and explore how we can move forward together.

Sincerely,

****[Your Full Name]****

[SLP Credentials if applicable]

[Your Position/Role]