



Speech Language Pathologist (SLP) Master's Degree  
Distance Venue  
Tuition Reimbursement Program





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To address the shortage of master's level speech-language pathologists (SLPs) in Texas schools, a **partnership** was formed with the **Texas Education Agency (TEA)**, **Education Service Centers (ESCs)**, **Texas Woman's University (TWU)**, and **local education agencies (LEAs)** to provide a master's degree venue for both in-field and out-of-field students. The venue utilizes videoconferencing, web-based instruction, and clinical experiences on school campuses, hospitals, nursing homes, clinics, and rehabilitation centers. Successful completion prepares graduates to apply for Texas licensure in speech pathology and American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) certification.

While applicants accepted into this venue will be fully prepared to serve in any professional setting, **the venue is intended to help ameliorate the shortage of licensed, certified SLPs in Texas public schools and is open only to those committed to employment with a public school district or charter school.**



The SLP Distance Learning Venue is **designed to allow students to work in schools as licensed assistants (SLP-A's) while completing the requirements for a master's degree in speech-language pathology.** Each student must secure sponsorship from an educational entity (school district or charter school) and maintain sponsorship throughout the master's venue.

Students attend class in a participating ESC once per week and attend class virtually at least once per week. ESC coordinators support and mentor students, while experienced SLPs across the state supervise students during their clinical experiences. **Both ESC coordinators and SLP supervisors serve as an extension of the classroom to provide hands-on, real-world experiences for the graduate students as they prepare to serve students in Texas public schools.**

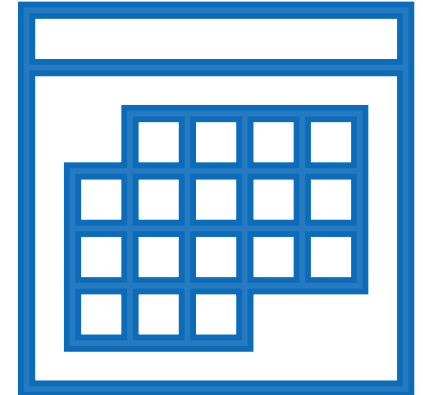


# SLP Master's Degree Statewide Distance Venue Tuition Reimbursement Program



- The SLP Tuition Reimbursement Program will provide funding for students accepted into the SLP Master's Degree Distance Venue beginning with the Cycle 12 cohort (June 2023).
- Funding reimbursement is available for up to 15 students -10 traditional SLP students and 5 students working toward the bilingual certificate.
- The Small and Rural Schools Network (SRSN) will administer the reimbursement award program.
- Funding reimbursement will include expenses for the duration of the 27-month Master's Degree Venue
  - Tuition & Fees
  - Books
  - "Kickoff Week" dorm+food+materials
  - AVANT testing for Bilingual Certificate
- Upon completion of SLP Master's Degree Distance Venue, participants must commit to a minimum of 3 years of service in a small and/or rural LEAs in Texas.

- **August 15-October 15, 2022** - Application window for SLP Master's Degree Distance Venue
- **September 15-October 15, 2022** - Application window for Tuition Reimbursement Program
- **September 7, 2022** - Statewide Information Meeting
- **December 2022:** Notify candidates in the Small/Rural Cohort of their acceptance into the SLP Master's Degree Program
- **February 2023** - Notify candidates in the Small/Rural Cohort of their acceptance into the Tuition Reimbursement Program administered by TEA's Small and Rural Schools Network (SRSN)
- **May 2023** - Kick Off Week at TWU
- **June 2023** - Classes begin statewide at the ESCs
- **August 2023** - Graduate students begin practicum in public school districts and charter schools!



- Disseminate Informational Flyer to small/rural LEAs
- Reach out to special education directors in small/rural LEAs in small group recruitment meetings and via statewide communication channels
- Hold Information Meeting on September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022, to detail the reimbursement scholarship and application process



- Encourage current SLP-As to attend the Cycle 12 Information Meeting
  - [September 7, 2022, Cycle 12 Information Meeting registration link](#)
- Disseminate reimbursement opportunity to contacts in small and rural LEAs
  - [SLP Tuition Reimbursement Program flyer](#)
- [SLP Master's Degree Distance Venue Webpage](#)
- Contact Pam Sepulvado, SLP Distance Venue Coordinator, for additional information
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