



# SPALS SPEAKS

VOLUME 16, ISSUE 4

APRIL 2012

## Speaker Highlight for 2012 Conference

### *Speech Sound Disorders: Let's Get Practical*

**Wayne A. Secord, Ph.D.**, is currently a Senior Research Scientist at The Ohio State University. An ASHA Fellow and Honors Recipient, Dr. Secord has authored or co-authored more than 80 publications and served as the editor of LSHSS from 1992 to 1998. His publications and other innovations have helped millions of children with disabilities and empowered thousands of professionals in the field. A former school SLP, Dr. Secord is a frequent conference presenter and a nationally recognized expert on (1) clinical and educational assessment, (2) children with

disabilities in speech.

#### **Program Summary**

Effective clinical management of *Speech Sound Disorders (SSD)* is all about paying attention to the most important things, and practically speaking, doing a few things extremely well. This program will show clinicians how to proceed from science to practice in order to (1) practically identify the most important (key) components of the phonological system, (2) use a practical 10 step assessment and interpretation process, (3) choose realistic treatment

targets, (4) use a variety of techniques and strategies for eliciting new sound behaviors (especially for /r/ and /s/), (5) implement several very practical intervention strategies, and lastly (6) determine when to dismiss a client from treatment altogether. Participants will leave with significantly improved assessment and intervention planning methods, a variety of elicitation techniques and strategies, and the ability to document when enough (treatment) is indeed enough.

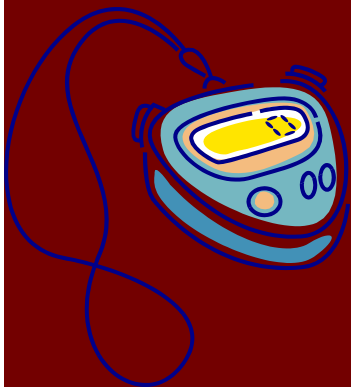
### **How to Achieve Spoken Communication and Literacy Outcomes for Children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing**

**Dr. Carol Flexer** received her doctorate in audiology from Kent State University, and was at The University of Akron for 25 years as a Distinguished Professor of Audiology. Dr. Flexer lectures and consults nationally and internationally about pediatric and

educational audiology, and has authored more than 155 publications. She is a past president of the Educational Audiology Association, the American Academy of Audiology, and the Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Academy for Listening and Spoken Language. This presentation will provide informa-

tion about the pivotal role of auditory brain development in the acquisition of spoken communication, reading, and academic skills in all children, particularly those with any degree of hearing loss. Participants will take home strategies for "growing the baby/child's auditory brain for language and literacy in 2012."





## iSLP Monthly Tip

***K12 Timed Reading*** is an app created by K12 Inc. as part of its comprehensive Language Arts and Phonics curriculum. The cost of the app is \$1.99. *K12 Timed Reading Practice* lets readers K-4 practice fluency by reading short, timed stories. Improving fluency allows readers to read smoothly and quickly so they can focus on comprehension rather than on decoding

words. It features more than 250 short, engaging stories for young readers with a variety of fiction and non-fiction. You have the ability to track one reader, multiple readers, or even a whole class.

As the student reads aloud, I am able to chart for Articulation, Fluency, and/or Voice goals and objectives. This app is

well constructed and does exactly what is described. However, it does not provide the much needed comprehensive test to ensure skills are improving. We as therapist will continue to drill for knowledge, understanding, analysis, application, comprehension, and knowledge needed to ensure growth and improvement.

## Hear Hear for Audiologist!

On March 9<sup>th</sup> Educational Audiologists from around the state gathered at the State Department Education Building in Baton Rouge to discuss billing concerns, new technology and consistency in programming. This meeting was developed and organized by Melodie Sparks, the State Supervisor of Student Services

for Deaf and Hard of Hearing. **For more information regarding the next meeting of Educational Audiologists please contact:**  
Melodie Sparks  
*State Supervisor of Services for Students who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing*  
Office of Federal Program Support

NCLB and IDEA Support  
Louisiana Department of Education  
P.O. Box 94064  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9064  
**225-342-3747 Voice**  
225-342-3281- Fax

## Deadlines for Grants, Scholarships and Liz Borel Award

SPALS is offering 3 grants up to \$1000. The deadline for application is August 1, 2012.

SPALS is offering 2 Scholarships up to \$1500. The deadline is August 1, 2012

Borel Award nominees are due by July 1, 2012

Please see Website and Feb. newsletter for more information. Do not let these valuable opportunities pass by.

**Mail To:**  
**SPALS**  
**PO Box 12177**  
**Lake Charles, LA 70612**



# Regional Updates

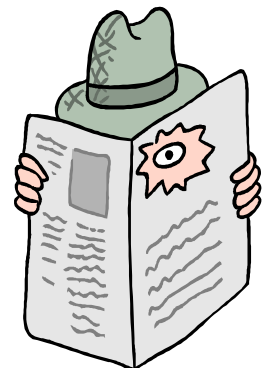


# Regional Updates



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Region VI Sabine Parish continues to implement SALSA practices within the classroom setting.

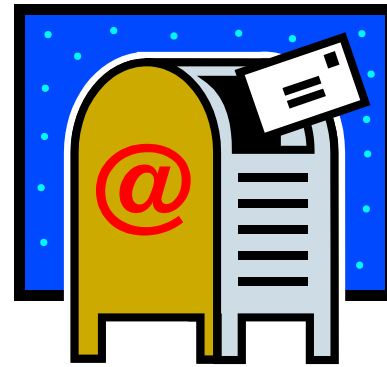


## SPALS

PO Box 12177

Lake Charles, LA 70612

Visit us online at [www.spals.org](http://www.spals.org) and  
<https://www.bigtent.com/groups/spals>



# Legislative News-What Bills to Look For

**SB 1 - LONG** Provides for permanent benefit increases for retirees payable from the experience account.

**SB 6 - E.L. GUILLORY** Provides for annual reporting to the La. School Employees' Retirement System on privatized jobs.

**SB 10 - E.L. GUILLORY** Provides for clarification of valuation method application.

**SB 13 - E.L. GUILLORY** Provides for use of entry age normal valuation method by Louisiana State Employees' Retirement System and Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana.

**SB 16 - CORTEZ** Provides for education for trustees of certain public retirement system boards.

**SB 17 - PEACOCK** Constitutional Amendment to change state employees from a defined benefit retirement plan to a defined contribution plan.

**HB 19 - HOFFMAN** Relative to the Teachers' Retirement System of La. (TRSL), allows retirees rehired as substitute teachers to collect retirement benefits during reemployment under certain circumstances.

**SB 19 - CORTEZ** Provides relative to the Teachers' Retirement System of La. and provides relative to rehired retirees.

**SB 20 - CORTEZ** Allows retired adjunct professors to avoid benefit suspension during reemployment, subject to an earnings limitation.

**SB 21 - E.L. GUILLORY** Provides for pre-filing and notice deadlines for bills affecting public retirement systems.

**SB 23 - E.L. GUILLORY** Provides for a permanent benefit increase for certain retired state employees.

**SB 25 - E.L. GUILLORY** Provides a regular schedule for permanent benefit increases for retirees of the state retirement systems.

**SB 26 - PEACOCK** Provides for a defined contribution plan for persons employed by state agencies and institutions after December 31, 2012, in nonhazardous posi-

tions.

**SB 27 - CORTEZ** Relative to benefits for members of the Louisiana State Employees' Retirement System.

**SB 30 - CORTEZ** Relative to benefits for members of the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana.

**SB 31 - HEITMEIER** Provides for purchase of service credit and membership in the system.

**SB 32 - E.L. GUILLORY** Changes the actuarial valuation method to entry age normal.

**SB 33 - E.L. GUILLORY** Provides relative to membership, contributions, eligibility for and calculation of benefits for employees of certain municipalities.

**HB 38 - JONES** Provides relative to certain rehired retirees.

**HB 40 - HOFFMANN** Provides relative to the board of trustees of the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana (TRSL).

**SB 41 - E.L. GUILLORY** Provides for a minimum benefit.

**SB 42 - CORTEZ** Provides for a sixty-month average compensation period for members of state retirement systems.

**HB 43 - CHAMPAGNE** Provides relative to the forfeiture of pension benefits by public officials upon felony conviction for certain

offenses.

**SB 44 - E.L. GUILLORY** Provides relative to authority to grant cost-of-living adjustments.

**SB 46 - CORTEZ** Provides relative to merger of the La. School Employees' Retirement System into the Teachers' Retirement System of La. **Note:** House Bill 60 by Pearson is identical and has been referred to House Retirement; Senate Bill 56 by E.L. Guillory is identical and has been referred to Senate Retirement.

**SB 47 - E.L. GUILLORY** Provides relative to final average compensation.

**SB 48 - E.L. GUILLORY** Provides relative to membership on the boards of state retirement systems.

**SB 51 - E.L. GUILLORY** Provides relative to retirement eligibility for certain members of the La. State Employees' Retirement System and the Teachers' Retirement System of La. **Note:** House Bill 53 by Pearson is identical and has been referred to House Retirement.

**SB 52 - E.L. GUILLORY** Increases the employee contribution rate for certain members of state retirement systems.

**HB 53 - PEARSON** Provides relative to retirement eligibility for certain members of the La. State Employees Retirement System and the Teachers Retirement System of La. **Note:** Identical bill Senate Bill 51 By E.L. Guillory referred to Senate Retirement.

**SB 53 - E.L. GUILLORY** Provides for a cash balance plan for certain state employees.

**HB 54 - PEARSON** Provides relative to membership on the boards of state retirement systems.

**SB 54 - E.L. GUILLORY** Provides for the system valuation method.

**HB 55 - PEARSON** Provides relative to final average compensation.

**SB 55 - E.L. GUILLORY** Changes the system's actuarial valuation method to entry age normal.

