



# Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

**Board of Examiners For  
Speech-Language Pathology & Audiology**  
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## 2019-21 Governor's Budget Highlights

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**Mission:** The Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology (BSPA) seeks to protect the public by regulating the practices of speech-language pathology and audiology; and by licensing and regulating speech-language pathologists (SLPs), speech-language pathology assistants (SLPAs) and audiologists. These professionals serve vulnerable children, adults, and seniors, including people with autism, communication disorders, speech-language disorders, multiple disabilities and following stroke or traumatic brain injury in both medical and educational settings.

### Key Budget Drivers:

- Number of licensees continues to increase about 11-14% per biennium. The number of licensees has increased more than 48% since 2012, just six years ago. We project a conservative 5% growth per annum during the next biennium.
- Increased volume of cases (fewer than 20/year until 2008, 63 in calendar year 2016, now 80-100 per year).
- DOJ costs on flat fee schedule, but still was major increase over prior biennium. Actual flat fee cost in 2015-17 was \$44,529 and the budget for 2019-21 is \$77,124, a 73% increase.
- Information Technology: The Board must invest in a new database and obtain a new I.T. solution for desktop and network services – see Policy Option Package.
- Due to consistent annual caseload of 80-100 cases, see Policy Option Package for increasing Investigator 2 position to full time from half time.

### Budget Summary:

- Revenue: Agency is supported 100% by Other Funds; 98% of revenue is licensing fees, less than 1% is civil penalties and about 1% is interest income. The Governor's budget calls for 19-21 revenue of \$689,263. Total revenue through November 30, 2018 for the current biennium is \$669,496, and with another seven months left to the biennium, Board staff projects total 17-19 revenue at \$698,792.
- Expenses: Governor's budget calls for total expenses of \$956,379, a 26.5% increase over 2017-19 LAB.
- Fund Balance: The 2015-17 ending fund balance was \$466,063, and Board staff projects an ending fund balance of approximately \$422,938 for 17-19.
- No changes in fees requested/required for 17-19. Once we make the investment in I.T. and the full time investigator position, we expect expenses to level out for next two biennia other than typical inflation. The Board is not requesting or anticipating the need for a fee increase for 2019-21 but will re-evaluate revenue and fund balance projections after the 2019 biennial license renewal cycle.

### Emerging Issues and Accomplishments:

- Implemented Workforce Data program as required by statute during 2017 renewals.
- Possible national licensure compact on horizon, similar to Physical Therapy compact approved by Legislature in 2016. Director Haag is on the national SLP/audiology compact advisory committee.
- Telepractice as a way to deal with shortages of SLPs in both educational and healthcare settings. The Board has almost completed its first Telepractice rules, due to take effect July 1, 2019.
- Speech-Language Pathology Assistant (SLPA) rule review and update is underway and these new rules also should be effective July 1, 2019.
- Audiology Assistants – exploration of this possible new/future licensure category.
- Currently working with state school based Medicaid program and ODE special education staff on issues of mutual concern, including training licensees and administrators on state statutes and rules.
- HRLB Boards, including BSPA, commissioned audit of internal accounting policies and procedures and will implement auditor's recommendations.

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