



Ted Strickland, Governor
Deborah S. Delisle, Superintendent of Public Instruction

September 1, 2010

Dear Administrator:

As you know, Ohio schools have faced persistent shortages in available qualified speech language pathologists. The Ohio Department of Education and OMNIE (Ohio Master's Network- Initiatives in Education) have provided several initiatives that offer relief for school districts. The State Board of Education has funded these programs to address the immediate and future availability of professionals to deliver quality speech language pathology services to Ohio's special education students. Program details are available on the OMNIE website: www.omnie.org

1. **Internship Model Graduate Program** has increased enrollment in SLP programs at Ohio universities by offering a paid two-year full-time internship in hard-to-staff school districts. The school district's participation and commitment are required. In the past three years over 100 SLP interns have been placed in districts across the state. **School districts must apply** for SLP interns by March 1, 2011 for intern services for 2011-12 academic year. District application is available on the website.
2. **Collaborative Web-based Graduate Program** has added over 30 students each January. This 3-year part time graduate program has offered students the opportunity to maintain their current employment and residence while completing program educational and practicum requirements. Students graduating from this program are expected to seek and accept school-based employment following program completion. By September 2013, this program will be discontinued, as almost 150 new graduates will have accepted school-based employment.
3. Check the OMNIE website **Employment Opportunities** link. Open school based SLP positions can be posted on the OMNIE website at NO CHARGE to the district.
4. **Telepractice** and **E-supervision** programs are being continued to extend the use of technology to reach students and interns in rural regions of the state.

For additional information, contact Nada Allender, OMNIE Project Coordinator. (nada@ameritech.net or 330-699-4019)

Sincerely,

Louis L. Staffilino, Associate Superintendent
Center for the Teaching Profession
Ohio Department of Education