



AMERICAN  
SPEECH-LANGUAGE-  
HEARING  
ASSOCIATION

April 24, 2018

Fe Murray, President  
Arizona Speech-Language-Hearing Association  
c/o Craven Management Associates, LLC  
700 McKnight Park Drive, Suite 708  
Pittsburgh, PA 15237

RE: Teacher Walkout/Strike

Dear Fe:

Thank you for reaching out to ASHA. We appreciate the Arizona Speech-Language-Hearing Association's (ArSHA) support for its school-based members and want you to know that ASHA also supports them during this difficult time. We understand that the walkout/strike will commence on Thursday, April 26, the same day as the beginning of the ArSHA convention. We expect, as with the other walkouts, that ASHA members will have questions/concerns about their responsibilities.

We understand not all districts will choose to close and not all members will choose to walk out. We want members to know that we support them advocating for equitable salaries, benefits, and resources. Furthermore, we know that as school-based professionals, members are concerned about the welfare of their students as well as their fellow colleagues.

If the schools close as a result of a walkout/strike, then school districts would be responsible for notifying families. If the strike is prolonged and students miss school, audiologists and speech-language pathologists (SLPs) should document their attempts to provide continuity of service. The documentation should include sending homework packets or providing correspondence to parents that pertains to questions about services.

In the rare situation that schools are closed for a prolonged period of time, and the audiologist or SLP does not attempt to provide some continuity or suggest other resources for services, parents, or others, might perceive the cessation of service provision as client abandonment. For your reference, the Issues in Ethics Statement on Client Abandonment is available on our website at <https://www.asha.org/Practice/ethics/Client-Abandonment/>. Further, Principle I, Rule T, of the ASHA Code of Ethics, states:

"Individuals shall provide reasonable notice and information about alternatives for obtaining care in the event that they can no longer provide professional services."  
(<https://www.asha.org/Practice/ethics/Client-Abandonment/>)

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It is also important to note that if there are missed sessions during the walkout/strike, parents may ask for those services to be made-up or to receive compensatory services. While the school district is responsible for addressing those concerns, audiologists or SLPs may be asked to provide services for missed sessions.

For your reference, ASHA has information on:

- **Missed Speech-Language Sessions in Schools**  
<https://www.asha.org/slp/schools/prof-consult/missed-sessions/>
- **Caseload and Workload**  
<https://www.asha.org/practice-portal/professional-issues/Caseload-and-Workload/>
- **Salaries and Wages**  
<https://www.asha.org/Research/memberdata/Salary-Data/>
- **Advocating for a Salary Supplement**  
<https://www.asha.org/Advocacy/state/issues/Advocacy-Resource-Guide-for-the-Salary-Supplement-Initiative/>
- **Appropriate School Facilities for Students With Speech-Language-Hearing Disorders**  
<https://www.asha.org/policy/TR2002-00236/>

Any audiologist or speech-language pathologist who is concerned or unclear about the legal obligations in their employment contract should consider seeking an attorney with expertise in employment issues. Please send questions, concerns, or comments to Janet Deppe, ASHA's director of state affairs, at [jdeppe@asha.org](mailto:jdeppe@asha.org), or Jaumeiko Coleman, ASHA's director of school services, at [jcoleman@asha.org](mailto:jcoleman@asha.org).

Sincerely,



Elise Davis-McFarland, PhD, CCC-SLP  
2018 ASHA President