

ASLP-IC Questions & Answers

X Will participating in the interstate compact replace the need to pay annual ASHA dues?

The interstate compact is separate from ASHA. Participating in the interstate compact will allow you to obtain a privilege to practice in another state but will not replace your ASHA membership or certification or any costs associated with them.

X What will it cost the state to participate in the interstate compact?

The ASLP-IC states that states may pay a fee to participate in the compact. The amount of that fee will be decided by the interstate compact commissioners that are appointed from each member state. States can charge individuals from other member states privilege to practice fees. Outside organizations (e.g., ASHA, AAA, NCSB) often help to fund interstate compacts. The nursing compact charges member states \$6,000/year. The psychology compact state fee is based on a sliding scale determined by the number of practitioners in the state that use the compact. The PT compact does not charge states a fee to participate.

X What will it cost licensees to participate in the interstate compact?

Individual licensees who choose to obtain a privilege to practice in another member state will pay a fee which will include payment to the interstate compact and to the state where the privilege to practice is sought. Each state will set their own fee for privilege to practice in their state. It is usually similar to or a little less than a licensure fee. Individuals who do not participate in the compact are not charged any fees for the interstate compact.

X How will we ensure that practitioners from other states are accountable when practicing in SD?

Audiologists and SLPs who obtain a privilege to practice in SD must adhere to laws and rules for audiology and SLP practice that we currently follow. The complaint, investigation, and disciplinary processes outlined in our statutes and rules will apply to out-of-state practitioners just as they do to SD licensees. The interstate compact will establish a practitioner data base that will allow member states to communicate licensure information, including investigations and adverse actions against licensees with each other.

X How would costs for complaint investigations be paid?

Costs for investigations are paid through licensure and privilege to practice fees maintained by the licensure boards. Costs to investigate complaints against out-of-state practitioners in SD would be shared with the practitioner's home state. A state may take an adverse action against an audiologist's or SLP's privilege to practice within that state, but not the individual's home state license. Any costs involved in pursuing actions against the individual's license would be paid by the home state licensing board. States may recover costs of investigations and disposition of cases from the affected audiologist or SLP when an action is taken against that person's privilege to practice.

How will we implement background checks given our current statute and laws? How would the cost of those background checks be paid?

The ASLP-IC legislation requires states to "fully implement a criminal background check requirement within a timeframe established by rule..." Most state audiology and SLP licensure boards, including those

in SD, do not currently require a criminal background check for licensure. The commissioners from the member states will establish a timeframe for implementing background check requirements when rules are written. It is anticipated that states will have a number of years to implement background check requirements after the compact is enacted. Home states can charge licensees who participate in the compact a fee for fingerprinting.

X Would SD lose practitioners to neighboring states that offer higher salaries?

The goal of the interstate compact is to facilitate cooperation between states and make it easier for members of the work force to move and work across state lines. This goes both ways. It will make it easier for licensees in our neighboring states to work in SD and it will make it easier for SD licensees to work in other states. Given that licenses cost \$100 - \$500/year in our region and salaries in SD (for SLPs) are \$5000 - \$21,000/year lower than in neighboring states, if a SD licensee wants to work in a neighboring state, they will regardless of the presence of the interstate compact. The interstate compact just removes one more barrier to practice in SD.

X Why aren't hearing aid dispensers, audiology assistants, and speech-language pathology assistants included in the interstate compact?

Hearing aid dispensers and assistants aren't regulated consistently among the states. The writers of the compact spent a significant amount of time looking at requirements for these professions and discussing whether to include them, especially hearing aid dispensers. Ultimately, they found that there isn't enough uniformity to include those professions in a compact.

What types of telepractice services will be allowed through the interstate compact?

The interstate compact will allow individuals from other member states to practice audiology or speech-language pathology in SD via telehealth. Those individuals are subject to the same laws and rules for provision of services via telehealth as SD audiologists and speech-language pathologists.

X Is it possible for one profession to participate in the interstate compact and the other to opt out of participation? For example, could we allow SLPs to participate in it, but not audiologists or vice versa?

The compact was written for both professions. If SD would pass the compact with amendments to exclude either speech-language pathology or audiology, the interstate commission that is created by this compact would deem that to be a material deviation and not allow SD to participate. The American Academy of Audiology (AAA) participated in the development of compact language with ASHA and the National Council of State Boards of Examiners for SLP and Audiology (NCSB) beginning in 2016. Separate compacts were not developed. The smaller size of the audiology profession, the combination of audiology and SLP in many licensure boards, and the costs to develop a separate compacts were factors in the creation of the combined audiology and SLP compact. The joint ASLP compact that was developed has received many letters of support from organizations listed at <https://aslpcompact.com/supporting-organizations/>.

X If I have to pay privilege to practice fees to work in other states, how does the ASLP-IC really help me as an audiologist or speech-language pathologist?

When applying for a privilege to practice through the interstate compact, the practitioner is relieved of the full burden of licensure application which may include completion of an application, submission of

transcripts and test scores, and other documentation for each state where they practice. The practitioner only needs to continue to renew their home state license to continue to practice in all states to which they've obtained/maintained a privilege to practice. This reduces the work of tracking multiple renewal dates, submitting multiple renewal fees, and tracking CEU requirements for multiple state licenses.