



## **DESE Proposed Rule Change Would Eliminate Issuance of Initial Speech Language Pathologist (SLP) Certificates**

*Any district employee currently holding and renewing a DESE issued SLP certificate will remain a PSRS member*

Under a rule change proposed by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), the Department would no longer issue Initial Speech Language Pathologist (SLP) certificates beginning August 1, 2017. The proposed rule, which is currently in the comment period, could be amended or be withdrawn before becoming final.

If enacted as written, the rule change would have the following effects:

- A Public School Retirement System of Missouri (PSRS) member with a DESE issued SLP certificate would remain a PSRS member as long as he or she continues to hold and renew the DESE issued SLP certificate.
- The proposed DESE rule amendment would not require current "full" PSRS members to be considered "two-thirds" PSRS members who must participate in Social Security.
- In the future, it would be possible for a school district to hire a new employee without a DESE issued SLP certificate for an SLP position that previously required a DESE issued SLP certificate. Employees without a DESE issued SLP certificate would be Public Education Employee Retirement System of Missouri (PEERS) members.
- A PSRS member that fails to hold and renew a DESE issued SLP certificate (or other DESE issued certificate) would become a member of PEERS.

The proposed rule may be viewed on the Missouri Secretary of State's website at [www.sos.mo.gov](http://www.sos.mo.gov).