This memo is to remind you that the deadline for individuals holding a valid New Jersey speech correctionist endorsement to serve in a position requiring speech-language specialist (SLS) certification is **August 31, 2015**. By this date, all individuals with a speech correctionist endorsement shall have obtained the speech-language specialist endorsement or completed a Department-approved retraining program. If not, these individuals may no longer serve in a position requiring SLS certification.

With respect to applicable regulations, on January 5, 2009, the New Jersey State Board of Education adopted amendments to *N.J.A.C.* 6A:9. In those amendments, *N.J.A.C.* 6A:9-13.6(d) was amended to permit individuals holding a valid New Jersey speech correctionist endorsement to serve in a position requiring SLS certification until **August 31, 2015**, by which date they shall have obtained the speech-language specialist endorsement or completed a Department-approved retraining program. The amendment represented an extension of the original deadline of December 31, 2009, allowing additional time for speech correctionists to complete either a master’s program for the standard speech-language specialist endorsement or the speech upgrade requirements for the speech-language specialist equivalent certificate, and ensuring that there would be no reduction in the number of appropriately
certified providers while the process was ongoing. Information regarding the speech upgrade retraining program, offered by Kean University with support from the Office of Special Education Programs, was initially distributed in 1998 and extensive outreach to speech correctionists about the opportunity to meet the upgrade requirements has occurred over the past 15 years. If you have any questions, please contact Judy Cifone, manager, Certification and Induction, at (609) 984-6377.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

c: Members, State Board of Education
   David Hespe, Acting Commissioner
   Diane Shoener
   Executive County Superintendents
   Executive Directors of Regional Achievement Centers
   Executive County Business Officials
   County Supervisors of Child Study
   NJ LEE Group
   Garden State Coalition of Schools
   Department-approved Clinics and Agencies