

# **The Role and Responsibilities of SEALs**

## **Mission Statement**

The mission of the SEALs network is to enhance and perpetuate the advocacy, leadership, and clinical management skills of school-based ASHA members at the state and local levels to influence administrative and public policy decisions that affect the delivery of speech-language pathology and audiology services in school settings.

The SEALs accomplish this mission by:

1. Serving as a conduit for information and strategy sharing with:
  - Other SEALs
  - State and/or local education coalitions/committees
  - State speech-language-hearing associations' leadership (e.g., executive board, governmental affairs chairs, school-practices chair/committee, lobbyist)
  - ASHA
  
2. Establishing or enhancing, in collaboration with the state speech-language-hearing association, effective linkages with:
  - Key contact persons at state and local education agencies
  - State legislators
  - Boards of education
  - Teacher unions
  - Other school-based professionals
  - Parent and consumer groups
  - Fellow school-based audiologists in the state
  - Fellow school-based speech-language pathologists in the state
  
3. Serving as a resource and providing education for fellow audiologists, speech-language pathologists, and other regular and special education personnel regarding:
  - Compliance with federal education requirements (e.g., IDEA, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act)
  - Compliance with state education requirements

- Education policy decisions which are made at the local (e.g., district special education department), state, or federal levels
  - Appropriate strategies to influence education policy decisions at the different levels
  - Key contacts for education issues at different levels
4. Serving as a catalyst to mobilize school-based speech-language pathologists and audiologists for effective advocacy at the local, state, and federal levels, using:
- ASHA's Take Action site
  - State association Listserv, newsletters, Web sites
  - Regional or local professional groups
  - Other mechanisms for networking with audiologists in the state
  - Other mechanisms for networking with speech-language pathologists in the state