

Grandfathering Bachelor Level SLPs/AUDs for Licensure: 03/21/2007

A bill has been filed in Massachusetts to re-open the grandfather clause for at least the 3rd time, but it proposes opening it back to 1983. (This bill has a history that in previous sessions it named 3 SLPs specifically. These individuals were practicing in a school since the early 80s with no license, no CCCs and no Master's degree. **This session, it has been re-written to open up the grandfather clause to SLP and Audiology.** Anyone who can prove they were practicing in 1983 with just a BA/BS could be grandfathered in. The Praxis is also waived.

I am looking for how many states still allow grandfathering of bachelor level people. I have read a couple of state laws and none of them mentioned grandfathering for bachelor's level. Also curious, if your state allowed grandfathering, what was the time window and how many, if any, amnesty periods were granted.

STATE:	RESPONSE:
California	<p>1. In CA, a person employed by the schools can work without a license (exempt setting) on a waiver. So theoretically this could be someone without a MA, though IDEA language does require the highest qualified provider.</p> <p>Outside the exempt settings, an audiologist must have an MA or equivalent. If we are successful in getting the AuD to be the entry-level degree for new licensees, we will still permit practice by MA-level audiologists, and will permit MA-level audiologists who have been licensed in other states to move into CA and be eligible for a license.</p> <p>Alison M. Grimes, AuD</p> <p>2. According to the Commission on Teacher Credentialing, an audiologist working in the schools must have a Clinical Rehabilitation Services Credential in Audiology. Minimum requirements include a Master's degree or equivalent. As far as I can see, a master's is also required for SLP's.</p> <p>Naomi Smith, AuD</p>
Florida	<p>In Florida, BA/BS level SLPs who graduated before 1979 have been grandfathered in to work in the schools. Any who graduated after 1979 must have a graduate degree to work in the schools. If they were grandfathered in as a BA/BS level individual, they cannot work anywhere else except for the schools until retirement. Audiologists in the schools have at least a master's degree. Everyone, Aud and SLP, who works outside the schools must be licensed which includes a graduate degree. Again,</p>

	<p>outside the schools, if someone has a BA/BS degree, that person can work as an assistant (Aud or SLP) but cannot practice independently.</p> <p>Robert C. Fifer, Ph.D.</p>
<p>Georgia</p>	<p>We just passed a new law in GA, effective Jan 1, 2007. Here's a link:</p> <p>http://www.legis.ga.gov/legis/2005_06/fulltext/hb1112.htm</p> <p>For a SLP to practice in the schools, licensure is not needed, so in theory, a BA/BS may be all that is had (see quote)</p> <p>"(1) Licensure is not required of a speech-language pathologist certified by the Department of Education or Professional Standards Commission or successor agency while that person is working as an employee of an a public educational institution, serving any grade or grades from pre-kindergarten through grade 12, provided that no fees are charged for the services either directly or through a third party, except for Medicaid."</p> <p>quote re: SLP licensure.</p> <p>"To be eligible for licensure by the board as a speech-language pathologist, the applicant shall possess a master's or higher degree with a major emphasis in speech-language pathology from an accredited program, which incorporates the academic course work and the minimum hours of supervised graduate training required by the rules and regulations of the board."</p> <p>re: aud licensure...</p> <p>"To be eligible for licensure by the board as an audiologist: (1) Effective January 1, 2007, the applicant shall have earned a doctoral degree in audiology or completed the academic requirement of a doctoral degree program with a major emphasis in audiology from an institution of higher learning that is, or at the time the applicant was enrolled and graduated was, accredited by an accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department of Education or its successor organization; or The applicant shall have earned a master's degree with a major emphasis in audiology which was conferred before January 1, 2007, from an institution of higher learning which was, at the time the applicant was enrolled and graduated, accredited by an accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department of Education or its successor organization."</p> <p>but this does appear to grandfather... "Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, any</p>

	<p>person who has been issued a license by the State Board of Examiners for Speech Pathology and Audiology to practice as a speech pathologist or an audiologist and whose license was valid on June 30, 2006, shall not be required to comply with the provisions of subsections (a), (b), (c), and (d) of this Code section. Such person shall continue to be licensed in that person's respective field and shall have his or her license renewed if he or she complies with the other provisions of this chapter, including but not limited to any continuing education requirement established by the board for license renewal."</p> <p>So, all that to say, I assume that if a BA/BS degree level provider had kept his/her licensure updated, he/she could still practice in GA. I don't personally know of any auds, but there may be.</p> <p>Katherine Pollard</p>
Idaho	<p>In Idaho, we grandfathered both Aud's and SLP's at the bachelors' level for one year after the passage of the initial law with no provision for extension or re-opening. Applicants had to show proof that they were practicing for at least five years prior to the deadline. It seems to me it would be a can of worms to re-open a clause which may allow under qualified individuals to migrate to a state and become practitioners.</p> <p>Joe Seitz, F-AAA</p>
Mississippi	<p>Mississippi does not allow "grandfathering/mothering" at present time and has not for a number of years.</p> <p>William D. Mustain, Ph.D., CCC-A, FAAA</p>
Rhode Island	<p>Rhode Island does not grandfather BS/BA for Audiology, I can't be certain about speech. We will be grandfathering MS as soon as the new licensure law regarding AuD passes.</p> <p>R.Baboian. AuD, FAAA, CCC-A</p>
Tennessee	<p>As I understand the legal aspect you can not legislate someone out of a job. Therefore, if they held a BA and were grandfathered in when the master's degree came and currently hold a valid license then they will again be grandfathered in with the doctorate requirement. However, if they do not currently hold a license then I believe that they would need to meet the doctoral requirements.</p> <p>Herbert Jay Gould, Ph.D.</p>
Virginia	<p>Regulations in Virginia are very similar to those in Wisconsin. School SLPs are not required to hold a license issued by the Board of Health professions, but are rather regulated by the Dept. of Education. As in Wisconsin, school-based only SLPs are not permitted to practice outside the school setting, and even within the</p>

	<p>schools their services cannot be billed to Medicare or Medicaid.</p> <p>Susan G.Chawick, Au.D.</p>
Washington	<p>I lived in California for 6 years and Washington 7 years and Rhode Island 2 years and I have not encountered any of these states grandfathering bachelors. There were grandfathering for masters but definitely no bachelors.</p> <p>Winnie Chung</p>
Wisconsin	<p>Wisconsin (WI Stat. ch. 459) exempts speech/language pathologists who work in Wisconsin public schools from the license required by Dept Regulation and Licensing, provided they <u>never</u> deliver services outside of their employment in the public schools, carry certification through Dept of Public Instruction, and do not evaluate or treat Medicaid patients. In the absence of those restrictions, speech/language pathologists must have a license as required by Dept Regulation and Licensing (Master's or Doctoral degree from accredited university, clinical practicum in graduate school, national NESPA exam through Praxis, and supervised clinical fellowship year). Those with a Bachelor's degree are not grandfathered.</p> <p>Meredy Hase, Au.D.</p>