

## A Unique Two-Day In-Person Conference



# 2026 Northeastern Conference for School-Based SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGISTS

**Rochester** (West Henrietta), NY

**November 16 and 17**

**ASHA CEUs Available**

CEUs and Graduate Credits Available  
See page 7 for details

**Long Island** (Holtsville), NY

**November 18 and 19**

**ASHA CEUs Available**

CEUs and Graduate Credits Available  
See page 7 for details

## Choose from 21 Strategy-Packed Conference Sessions



**Speech-Language Therapy Resources • Hundreds of Practical Strategies**

# Highly Effective, Use-Tomorrow Therapy Strategies!



## Meet Your Team of Expert Instructors

### **MARIBETH PLANKERS, MS, CCC-SLP**

is an outstanding national presenter and highly experienced school-based speech-language pathologist. She brings years of school-based experience, working with students of all ages and ability levels. MariBeth has provided services in public and private school settings. Her sessions are fast paced, engaging, highly practical, and filled with ideas you can use tomorrow in your therapy.

Presenter for the Bureau of Education & Research and receives honorarium compensation.  
ASHA CEU Administrator for the Bureau of Education & Research for which she receives compensation.

No relevant nonfinancial relationships exist.

### **GINA ENGLAND, MA, CCC-SLP**

is a highly experienced school-based SLP and national presenter. She brings decades of PreK–12 experience working in a wide variety of schools and districts, supporting students with a broad range of communication and learning challenges. Gina understands the real-world challenges facing school-based SLPs and is passionate about helping them. Her sessions are full of practical, engaging ideas you can put to work the very next day in your therapy.

Presenter for the Bureau of Education & Research and receives honorarium compensation.

No relevant nonfinancial relationships exist.

### **ALLISON CLOUTIER, MS, CCC-SLP**

is an experienced speech language pathologist who has worked in public and private schools as well as in an outpatient pediatric private practice. Allison is well known for her ability to easily integrate many students' speech and language needs into motivating and engaging activities. You'll leave Allison's sessions with a wealth of practical therapy strategies you can use immediately with your students.

Presenter for the Bureau of Education & Research and receives honorarium compensation.

No relevant nonfinancial relationships exist.

### Who Should Attend

School-Based Speech-Language  
Pathologists Serving Grades PreK-12



### ASHA CEUs Available



**ASHA CE**  
**APPROVED PROVIDER**

**Bureau of Education  
& Research**

Intermediate Level  
0.50 ASHA CEUs

This course is offered for up to 1.0 ASHA CEUs (Intermediate level, Professional area).  
**You will be required to fully attend the conference, actively participate, and complete a self-assessment and program evaluation.**

# Day One

**Keynote • 8:30 am – 9:05 am**

## **“Implementing Best Practices: Our Future As School-Based SLPs”**

– MariBeth Plankers

The future and field of speech language pathology are ever-changing. As school-based speech-language pathologists, we play a critical role in shaping our profession’s future. Let’s kick off two great days together! We’ll examine how evidence-based educational resources, collaboration with teachers and other specialists, and thoughtful implementation of technological innovations are three keys to meeting our students’ increasingly diverse communication needs, while addressing our professional workload.

## **MORNING SESSIONS • 9:15 am – 11:50 am**

Choose ONE Full Morning Session OR TWO 70-Minute Sessions • One mid-morning break

**Full Morning Session • 9:15 am – 11:50 am**

### **A-1: Enhancing Your Informal Assessment Practices to Best Identify and Target Student Needs**

– Gina England

We’ve all faced numerous challenges completing timely and informative speech-language evaluations. The single greatest challenge is often the time required amidst increasing caseloads and the many demands on our time. Explore a wealth of timesaving informal assessment resources with clickable web links for your immediate use, the majority of which are free and available via public domain. Discover quick, valuable assessment activities that target articulation, language, academic vocabulary and social communication/pragmatic skills.

**First 70-Minute Morning Sessions**  
9:15 am – 10:25 am

**Second 70-Minute Morning Sessions**  
10:40 am – 11:50 am

#### **CHOOSE ONE: A-2 or A-3**

##### **A-2: Digital Make & Take: EdPuzzle, Canva, and Baamboozle** – Allison Cloutier

Create online digital and printable materials personalized to you and YOUR caseload. We’ll learn how to use several outstanding digital tools to create highly engaging and effective therapy materials you can use immediately with students on your current caseload. Maximize student engagement, support diverse learning needs, and save valuable time! You’ll get hands-on time in this session to begin creating therapy materials that target language, articulation, and social-pragmatic skills.

##### **A-3: Play-Based Therapy and Activities: Increase Student Motivation and Growth**

– MariBeth Plankers

No matter their age, students show greater willingness to engage when “play” is involved. Discover how to make the most of dramatic, constructive, and exploratory play in your speech-language therapy – across all ages of students! Learn about play-based therapy techniques you can use to target a wide range of speech and language needs in the natural setting. Support lifelong learning and greater generalization of social communication skills.

#### **CHOOSE ONE: A-4 or A-5**

##### **A-4: Top Ten Games and Activities for Speech-Language Therapy** – Allison Cloutier

Discover highly motivating games and activities you can use throughout your day and across diverse student needs to engage them in ways that lead to therapeutic success. Learn essential ways to embed therapy targets within a play-based learning format. Gain tips and tools for making best use of play- and project based learning with early childhood, elementary, middle, and high school students.

##### **A-5: Timesaving Tools to Better Address Accessibility for Students with Language and Literacy Challenges** – MariBeth Plankers

Examine two evidence-based tools to help you better address accessibility. Explore how the Student Environment Task and Tools Framework (Joy Zabala) helps with determining methods and materials that best fit a student’s needs. Learn how the Universal Design for Learning Framework can help with customizing materials and methods to create flexible and adaptable language/literacy learning experiences. Gain practical no-tech, high-tech, and artificial intelligence ideas. Decrease learning barriers, while increasing success for your students.

**Lunch break (on your own) • 11:50 am – 1:05 pm • A great time to network with colleagues!**

“Great PD opportunity – very relevant to daily SLP practices in the school setting. I feel ready to immediately apply what I learned today to therapy.”

– Megan Cole, SLP



“I always enjoy attending the BER conferences. The instructors are highly knowledgeable and I can take the information and immediately apply it to my work/caseload.”

– Melissa Eagles, SLP



### **Team Discount**

#### **ONE DAY**

One Person: \$325

#### **BOTH DAYS**

One Person: \$595

Team of 3+: \$565 per person  
when enrolled at the  
same time

“Lots of useful tools to implement immediately.” – Sarah Babcox, SLP

## Who is BER?

The Bureau of Education & Research is North America's leading presenter of training for professional educators. Our goal is to provide high-quality PD programs, based on sound research, with an emphasis on practical strategies and techniques that can be immediately implemented.



## Can't Attend? Online Professional Development Options:

### Related Online Courses

Related On-Demand Video-Based Online Learning courses, *A Language Processing Disorder: What It Is and How to Treat It*, for Grades K-12, *SLP: Language Disorders vs Language Differences for ELL*, for Grades P-12, and other related courses are available for immediate registration. To enroll, visit [www.ber.org/online](http://www.ber.org/online)

# Day One

## AFTERNOON SESSIONS • 1:05 pm – 3:35 pm

Choose **ONE** Full Afternoon Session OR **TWO** 70-Minute Sessions

*One mid-afternoon break*

### Full Afternoon Session • 1:05 pm – 3:35 pm

#### **B-1: Build Your Play-Based SLP Therapy Toolkit** – Allison Cloutier

Breathe new life into your therapy sessions with materials you already have on hand! Address various speech and language needs in individual and group therapy more efficiently and effectively. Explore engaging play-based games and activities, while creating a reference sheet for how to use each to address receptive and expressive language, social pragmatic language, written language, articulation, and AAC. Gain an extensive list of play-based materials, websites, and resources that will enhance your therapy.

#### First 70-Minute Afternoon Sessions

1:05 pm – 2:15 pm

#### **CHOOSE ONE: B-2 or B-3**

#### **B-2: Creating Stronger and More Functional IEP Goals: Let's Learn Some New Language!** – Gina England

One of the greatest challenges facing school-based SLPs is the difficulty building documentation time into our daily schedules. This can result in reduced individualization, accuracy and student-centered goals. Explore a practical approach for developing more targeted IEP goals that include aspects of executive functions and strategy use. These types of goals are more measurable, making data collection easier for IEP progress monitoring. They provide a template that yields automaticity over time, saving valuable time!

#### **B-3: The Top 10 Interventions for Regulating Student Behavior**

– MariBeth Plankers

Self-regulation is critical for students who struggle with communication and behavior challenges to maintain their focus, adapt to change, and achieve regulation. Explore MariBeth's Top 10 interventions to shift students toward more positive, proactive behaviors, and to enhance their communicative success. Go from reactive to proactive. Gain practical approaches to help students communicate their thoughts, wants, needs and ideas appropriately. Empower students with the self-regulation skills needed for positive interactions with others!

#### Second 70-Minute Afternoon Sessions

2:25 pm – 3:35 pm

#### **CHOOSE ONE: B-4 or B-5**

#### **B-4: Current and Future Applications of AI in Speech Pathology Evaluations**

– Gina England

To date, AI use in Speech Pathology has largely centered around creation of therapy materials and documentation shortcuts. Yet, its potential use in our evaluation efforts is rapidly gaining ground! AI can quickly and easily create more personalized assessment activities based on student needs and interests. See firsthand how AI can support the creation of personalized and developmentally appropriate assessment materials, engaging and empowering students, while streamlining your evaluation process.

#### **B-5: Maximizing Your Impact as a SLP in the General Education Classroom**

– MariBeth Plankers

Unlock the secrets to effective collaboration and maximize your impact as a SLP in the general education classroom. Discover proven strategies, tools, and solutions to help you better address students' diverse needs and goals while fostering collaboration with teachers and fellow service providers. Increase students' success and generalization across various settings, situations, and environments. Leave with practical lesson plan ideas and tools to facilitate seamless teamwork and support learning across diverse contexts.



### Online Learning

BER offers educators a wide range of online courses that are affordable, fun, fast, and convenient. BER is now offering On Demand Video-Based courses. You may earn optional graduate-level credits for most courses. See the catalog of available courses at [www.ber.org/online](http://www.ber.org/online)

# Day Two

## MORNING SESSIONS • 8:30 am – 11:15 am

Choose **ONE** Full Morning Session OR **TWO** 75-Minute Sessions  
*One mid-morning break*

### Full Morning Session • 8:30 am – 11:15 am

#### **C-1: Artificial Intelligence in Speech-Language Pathology: Unlocking Opportunities for Enhanced Communication** – *MariBeth Plankers*

AI is revolutionizing the way we address communication challenges. Discover ways to leverage AI to better support students. From speech recognition to natural language processing, and voice assistance, explore myriad AI tools available to SLPs. Learn how these technologies mimic human intelligence, offering tailored solutions to enhance communication outcomes. Expand your knowledge and practical application of AI in your SLP practice and envision the transformative impact it can have on your students' learning.

#### **First 75-Minute Morning Sessions** 8:30 am – 9:45 am

##### **CHOOSE ONE: C-2 or C-3**

#### **C-2: Increasing Short- and Long-Term Student Success** – *Allison Cloutier*

Expand your intervention strategies to support students who struggle with maintaining attention and engagement in therapy sessions. Gain tips, tricks, and strategies to engage students of all ages and to customize your speech and language sessions to meet diverse student needs. Explore outstanding ways to accommodate different learning styles, add movement into your sessions, make the most of multisensory approaches, harness the power of choice, and discover other strategies to engage our students to reach their highest potential.

#### **C-3: Student Non-compliance During Speech-Language Assessments: Successful Solutions** – *Gina England*

Separating behavioral dysfunction from executive dysfunction is difficult as they are often intertwined and influence each other. In this session, we'll explore common antecedents to noncompliant behavior that can impede the evaluation process and strategies that play to student strengths and interests, with the goal of reducing resistance and facilitating more successful completion of your evaluations. Learn how to be a more proactive than reactive clinician!

#### **Second 75-Minute Morning Sessions** 10:00 am – 11:15 am

##### **CHOOSE ONE: C-4 or C-5**

#### **C-4: Using Highly Engaging Thematic Units to Boost Therapy Effectiveness** – *Allison Cloutier*

Increase attention and engagement in your therapy sessions in ways that are fun for your students and for you! Gain new inspiration and learn practical ways to make best use of games, activities and free and low-cost materials. Leave this session with lesson plans and informational guides – one for each quarter of the school year – that you can use to address therapy needs across settings and grade levels.

#### **C-5: From A-Z: 26 Essential Lessons Learned in My Years as a Medical and School-Based SLP** – *Gina England*

Gina will share how her medical career subsequently made her a more effective school-based SLP. Explore how Gina's essential lessons learned have direct relevance to our school-based practice including our roles in assessment, therapy, advocacy, documentation, and team building. Participate in an enjoyable, relaxing, and insightful conversation on how to become our best school-based SLP selves.

### Comprehensive Digital Resource Handbook

You will receive an extensive digital resource handbook, specifically designed for this conference. Included in the handbook are resource materials for ALL conference sessions, even those you don't attend. These materials include:

- Powerful, current strategies for speech-language pathologists supported by the latest research and best practices in school settings
- Treatment strategies every SLP should know
- The latest in technology resources designed for SLPs and language development

**A printed copy of the resource handbook will be available to registrants at the conference site as long as their registration is received in the BER office at least 15 calendar days before the event.**



*"Each instructor was very knowledgeable and engaging. They had a lot to share! Great materials and resources!"*

– Cassandra Marin-Luna, SLP

### Lunch Break (on your own) • 11:15 am – 12:30 pm

*"Great options for all areas of practice in the school setting."* – Cynthia Steckel, SLP

## Conference Locations & Hotel Accommodations

In **Rochester**, enjoy beautiful Lake Ontario and visit a myriad of shopping and dining opportunities, as well as a wide variety of cultural and recreational activities.

### Conference Location and Overnight Accommodations:

R.I.T. Inn & Conference Center -  
West Henrietta  
(585) 359-1800

Mention you are attending this BER conference prior to October 23, 2026 to receive the special rate of \$119 (Single/Double), rates subject to availability. Book online at [rit.edu/ritinn/](http://rit.edu/ritinn/) and enter Group Attendee Code: 261116BERC.

The greater **LONG ISLAND** area offers several attractions, including the Long Island Maritime Museum, the Long Island Aquarium, as well as numerous dining and entertainment options.

### Conference Location and Overnight Accommodations:

Holiday Inn - Holtsville  
(631) 758-2900

Mention you are attending this BER conference to receive the special rate of \$112, rates subject to availability. For reservations call 631-758-2900 or book online at: <https://at.ber.org/BERConference-SLP> and enter Corporate ID: 100214966.



## Day Two

### AFTERNOON SESSIONS • 12:30 pm – 3:10 pm

Choose **TWO** 75-Minute Afternoon Sessions

*One mid-afternoon break*

#### First 75-Minute Afternoon Sessions 12:30 pm – 1:45 pm

##### CHOOSE ONE: D-1, D-2 or D-3

###### **D-1: Level Up Your Social Skills Groups**

– *Allison Cloutier*

Expand your toolkit of social pragmatic intervention strategies and learn great ways to pair social pragmatic techniques into high interest lesson plans. Explore engaging, interactive activities that promote conversational turn-taking, problem solving, engagement, perspective-taking, building authentic friendships and more! These hands-on, interactive activities are sure to engage your students in a new and exciting ways.

###### **D-2: Techniques for Facilitating Students' Self-regulation** – *Gina England*

Teachable moments rapidly disappear when students experience sensory dysregulation in our evaluation and therapy sessions. Recognizing the signs of early escalation is critical. Explore de-escalation strategies and many self-regulation activities you can teach students. Learn how student input is critical to a successful self-regulation "diet." Provide students with a safe and calm therapy environment to identify and practice these strategies that will yield real-world benefits throughout their lives.

###### **D-3: Engaging, Powerful Speech-Language Tools – On Any Device!**

– *MariBeth Plankers*

Explore highly engaging, powerful speech-language interventions accessible across devices. Dive into the latest Chrome, iOS, and web-based resources, tailored for learners of all ages and abilities. Learn how flexible intervention tools, such as speech-to-text and text-to-speech, can strengthen skills in word prediction, summarizing, organization, and engagement. Discover how these tools support students in generalizing academic and functional skills related to comprehension, narrative language, written language, and vocabulary development.

#### Second 75-Minute Afternoon Sessions 1:55 pm – 3:10 pm

##### CHOOSE ONE: D-4, D-5 or D-6

###### **D-4: Making Best Use of the Latest Online and Digital Materials** – *Allison Cloutier*

From Pixar Shorts and TED Talks to YouTube and movie clips – come and explore great ways you can use online and digital materials in your therapy. Learn how to engage your students with these high interest digital materials while targeting articulation, language, and social pragmatic needs. Since technology tools are ever changing, this interactive session will help you stay current on the best, up-to-date tools you'll want to have right at your fingertips!

###### **D-5: The Role of the School-Based SLP in the Management of Central Auditory Processing Disorders** – *Gina England*

Evaluation and diagnosis of auditory processing disorders is within the purview of clinical audiologists. However, school-based SLPs are often charged with the identification and management of related symptoms while students are at school. The realistic role of the SLP will be our focus with emphasis on the eight domains of auditory processing, the assessment process (including testing resources), recommended classroom teaching strategies, suggested IEP accommodations, and effective listening strategies SLPs can train students to use.

###### **D-6: Games Rule! Motivating and Interactive Games for ALL Learners** – *MariBeth Plankers*

Discover highly engaging, interactive games perfect for leveling up your interventions with diverse age ranges, skills, and learner preferences. Explore and experience a wealth of motivating games, ranging from no- or low-tech to high-tech for use in your therapy. Tap into the latest research supporting the use and benefits of putting games into action. Help students design, imagine, create, and test ideas as they strengthen collaborative teamwork and essential speech-language skills. Game on!

# 2026 Northeastern Conference for School-Based SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGISTS

## Registration (N987F1)

(Please copy this registration form for additional registrants)

### Rochester (West Henrietta), NY

- Both days:** ☐ November 16 and 17, 2026  
**Day One only:** ☐ November 16, 2026  
**Day Two only:** ☐ November 17, 2026

### Long Island (Holtsville), NY

- Both days:** ☐ November 18 and 19, 2026  
**Day One only:** ☐ November 18, 2026  
**Day Two only:** ☐ November 19, 2026

FIRST NAME M.I. LAST NAME

POSITION, SUBJECT TAUGHT GRADE LEVEL

SCHOOL NAME

SCHOOL MAILING ADDRESS

CITY & STATE

ZIP CODE

SCHOOL PHONE NUMBER

HOME PHONE NUMBER

( )

( )

**Registration confirmations and login details are sent via e-mail**

E-MAIL ADDRESS (REQUIRED FOR EACH REGISTRANT)

HOME MAILING ADDRESS

CITY & STATE

ZIP CODE

**PRIORITY ID CODE: EN987F1**

## METHOD OF PAYMENT

**Payment is due prior to the program. No cash, please.**

One day only, **\$325**; both days, **\$595**;  
**\$565** per person for groups of three or more registering  
at the same time for both days.

- ☐ A check (payable to **Bureau of Education & Research**) is attached  
☐ A purchase order is attached, P.O. # \_\_\_\_\_  
(Be sure to include priority ID code on the P.O.)

Cards accepted: MasterCard, VISA, Discover, AMEX

Account # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_ MO/YR

Billing Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_ 3 Digit CVV Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Found on back of card)

Please print name as it appears on card

## Earn One to Four Graduate Semester Credits



Up to four graduate-level professional development credits are available with an additional fee and completion of follow up practicum activities. Details may be found at [www.ber.org/credit](http://www.ber.org/credit)

## Meet Inservice Requirements / Earn State CEUs

Participants can receive a certificate of participation that may be used to verify continuing education hours. In addition, state CEUs are available. For details, visit [www.ber.org/ceus](http://www.ber.org/ceus)

## Registration Fee:

The fee for the first or second day registration only is \$325 per person. If a person registers for both days, the registration fee is discounted to \$595 per person; \$565 per person for groups of three or more registering at the same time for both days.

**Registration fees are due prior to the program. No cash, please.**

Fee includes conference registration, a certificate of daily attendance and an extensive digital resource handbook with materials for all sessions – even those you don't attend.

**A printed copy of the resource handbook will be available to registrants at the conference site as long as their registration is received in the BER office at least 15 calendar days before the event.**

## FIVE EASY WAYS TO REGISTER:



**SCAN QR code or visit:**  
[at.ber.org/regN98](http://at.ber.org/regN98)



**EMAIL this form to:**  
[register@ber.org](mailto:register@ber.org)



**PHONE toll-free:**  
**1-800-735-3503**

(Weekdays 5:30 am - 5:00 pm Pacific Time)



**FAX this form to:**  
**1-425-453-1134**



**MAIL this form to:**  
**Bureau of Education & Research**  
3000 Northup Way • PO Box 96068  
Bellevue, WA 98004

## Session Preferences: Session Numbers Required

### DAY 1

☐ One Full Morning Session: A-1

– OR –

☐ Two 70-Minute Morning Sessions

A- \_\_\_\_\_ – and – A- \_\_\_\_\_  
(A-2 or A-3) (A-4 or A-5)

☐ One Full Afternoon Session: B-1

– OR –

☐ Two 70-Minute Afternoon Sessions

B- \_\_\_\_\_ – and – B- \_\_\_\_\_  
(B-2 or B-3) (B-4 or B-5)

### DAY 2

☐ One Full Morning Session: C-1

– OR –

☐ Two 75-Minute Morning Sessions

C- \_\_\_\_\_ – and – C- \_\_\_\_\_  
(C-2 or C-3) (C-4 or C-5)

☐ Two 75-Minute Afternoon Sessions

D- \_\_\_\_\_ (D-1, D-2 or D-3)

– AND –

D- \_\_\_\_\_ (D-4, D-5 or D-6)

## Cancellation/Substitutions

100% of your paid registration fee will be refunded if you can't attend and notify us at least 10 days before the conference. Late cancellations made prior to the conference date will be refunded less a \$15 service fee. Substitutions may be made at any time without charge.

## Program Guarantee

We stand behind the high quality of our programs by providing the following unconditional guarantee: If you are not satisfied with this program, we'll give you a 100% refund of your registration fee.



**BEP**  
BUREAU OF EDUCATION & RESEARCH  
3000 Northup Way  
PO Box 96068  
Bellevue, WA 98004  
[www.ber.org](http://www.ber.org)

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Research

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- *Outstanding In-Person Conference*
- *Choose From 21 Strategy-Packed Sessions*
- *Receive an Extensive Digital Resource Handbook*

N987F1



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