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## Springfield Hosts Speech Pathology Conference

Springfield, Ore. – More than 25 area speech language pathologists will be on hand tomorrow for a unique cross-district collaborative professional development event hosted by Springfield Public Schools.

**What:** Speech Pathology Collaboration Conference  
**Where:** Maple Elementary, 2109 J St., Springfield  
**When:** Friday, October 9, 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

This free event (which takes place on a no-school day across the state) will provide speech language pathologists with an opportunity to explore new strategies for serving students, problem-solve about challenging situations, and share information about area resources to support students with disabilities. Speech language pathologists provide therapy to students with mild to severe language difficulties, including difficulty making speech sounds, trouble with language development, issues with stuttering or difficulty with social communication.

In addition to a number of sessions around enhancing fluency, the use of technology in speech pathology, English language learners, and other topics, other local organizations will also be on hand to present about developmental disability resources, including a representative from The Arc. Students from the district's Community Transition Program, which helps students adjust to life after high school, will be serving coffee and muffins in the morning through their Coffee Cart, which helps raise funds for the program in addition to providing valuable life skills training.

The conference was funded through a grant from the Paul G. Allen Foundation that supports the district's Teacher Leader program and organized by SPS pathologist Sara Starlin, herself a participant in the district's Teacher Leader Cadre.

"This event is a great example of the leadership that Springfield is providing in our area, providing teachers with the support and encouragement they need to step up and help others become better educators," says Laura Scruggs, coordinator for the Global Institute for Teacher Advancement.

To learn more about Speech Language Services in Springfield, visit [www.springfield.k12.or.us/speech](http://www.springfield.k12.or.us/speech).

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