



Facts-on-Hand Related Services

FAPE-33

What are related services?

Related services are developmental, corrective and other supportive services that are required to assist a child with a disability to benefit from special education. Some children need related services to meet their individually designed special education goals.

Related services can include, but are not limited to,

- Audiology;
- Counseling services;
- Early identification and assessment of disabilities in children;
- Medical services (only to diagnose or evaluate a child's disability);
- Occupational therapy;
- Orientation and mobility services;
- Parent counseling and training;
- Physical therapy;
- Psychological services;
- Recreation;
- Rehabilitation counseling services;
- School health services (including assistance with health-related needs during the school day);
- Social work services in school;
- Speech-language pathology services;
- Transportation.

Sometimes a child needs a type of support that isn't listed above. Maybe the child needs art therapy or assistive technology services. If these services are considered as related services and are required to assist a child with a disability to benefit from special education and receive a free appropriate public education (FAPE), then those services must be provided.

Who provides related services?

Professionals who meet state requirements may provide related services in the area of their expertise. Paraprofessionals and assistants who are trained and supervised in

accordance with State law or policy may also assist in providing these services.

Who decides which related services are right for my child?

Your child's Individualized Education Program (IEP) team decides which related services to include in your child's IEP. As the parent, you are an important member of this team. The IEP team gathers information from evaluations and members of the IEP team. This information is used to determine your child's individual needs. Related services are identified to meet these needs. No related service is automatically included or denied due to your child's disability. Qualified service providers for proposed related services can also be important members of the IEP team.

Sally is a third grader with a learning disability and an IEP. Her father, Mr. Johnson, was worried about Sally's handwriting. She seemed to be spending a very long time on her homework. When she was done, it was almost impossible to read what she had written. Mr. Johnson brought some handwriting samples to Sally's IEP meeting. He shared his concerns with the team. They decided to evaluate Sally to see if she needed the related service "occupational therapy" to help with her handwriting. After the evaluation was completed, the IEP team met again. Based on her needs as determined by the evaluation, occupational therapy goals for improved hand strength and better letter formation were written into her IEP.

How are related services written into the IEP?

The IEP team will write goals and objectives for each related service, such as speech therapy, that your child needs. The IEP will describe:

- the type of related service to be provided
- how often, how long and where the related service will be delivered



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Depending on your child's needs, related services can be provided in group or individual settings, as well as in the general education classroom or a separate setting. Related services support special education in the least restrictive environment. They can be provided in all educational settings.

Who pays for related services?

Related services must be provided at no cost to you. This is part of the state's responsibility to provide your child with a free appropriate public education (FAPE).

The school may ask for your help in getting third party payments for your child's related services. They can only do this if it won't cost you anything, out of pocket, either now or in the future. Third parties can be public programs, such as Medicaid, or your private health insurance company.

If Medicaid or other public insurance covers your child, the school can usually bill them for related services your child receives in school. Your school does need your permission to release personally identifiable information from your child's educational record, including information about the kinds of services he or she receives in school.

The school does need your consent to bill your private health insurance for related services. You aren't required to give this consent. Your child will receive the related services in his or her IEP whether or not you agree to use your private health insurance. For more information about schools billing insurance to pay for related services, see FAPE "Facts-on-Hand" THIRD PARTY PAYMENTS.

What if the related services in my child's IEP are not being delivered due to staff shortages?

Your school district must provide the related services according to your child's IEP. This is true even during times of personnel shortages or extended absences. To do this, the school system can contract with qualified providers outside the school system through another public or private agency.

John is a fifth grade student who receives speech therapy twice a week. His speech therapist, Mrs. Ortiz, has taken a 3-month leave of absence to take care of her newborn daughter. John's school district does not have a speech therapist on staff who can cover Mrs. Ortiz's caseload while she is on leave. The school contracts with a speech therapist from a local children's hospital to provide John's speech therapy until Mrs. Ortiz returns to work.

Are related services available to my child who attends a private school?

If your child is placed in private school by the school district, then they will arrange for your child to receive any related services in his or her IEP.

IDEA regulations for providing services to children with disabilities whose parents have taken them out of public school and enrolled them in private schools are different. These regulations allow policies to vary from state to state, and from school district to school district. You will need to contact your state department of education or local school district to find out if your child will get any special education or related services in this case.

For a look at the regulations

See the IDEA regulations Section 300.24, Section 300.142(e)(f), and Appendix A Questions 30,31,34 and 35 available online at www.ed.gov/offices/OSERS/IDEA/regs.html.

Also available in hard copy from ED Pubs. Order online at www.ed.gov/pubs/edpubs.html, or by phone 1-877-4-ED-PUBS, 1-877-576-7734 TTY/TDD, 1-301-470-1244 FAX.

For more information

See FAPE "Facts-on-Hand" **THIRD PARTY PAYMENTS**.

Or Contact:

The National Information Center for Children and Youth with Disabilities (NICHCY)
800-695-0285, www.nichcy.org.

The Family and Advocates Partnership for Education (FAPE) 888-248-0822, www.fape.org.

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