

What Are Related Services in the IEP?

Under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), “related services” are a wide array of supportive services provided to children with disabilities to assist them in benefiting from special education.

When developing your child’s Individualized Education Program (IEP), the Admission, Review and Dismissal (ARD) committee, including you (the parent or guardian of the child) will determine if your child needs related services. The related services provided can vary in terms of the types of services, the means of delivery, and the frequency and location of services.

[IDEA, Sec. 300.34](#) says, “Related services means transportation and such developmental, corrective, and other supportive services as are required to assist a child with a disability to benefit from special education, and includes speech-language pathology and audiology services, interpreting services, psychological services, physical and occupational therapy, recreation, including therapeutic recreation, early identification and assessment of disabilities in children, counseling services, including rehabilitation counseling, orientation and mobility services, and medical services for diagnostic or evaluation purposes. Related services also include school health services and school nurse services, social work services in schools, and parent counseling and training.”

Common Related Services and IDEA Definitions

Audiology Services

Includes identification of children with hearing loss; determination of the severity of hearing loss; provision of habilitative activities and/or counseling; determination of children’s needs for group and individual amplification.

Counseling Services

Services provided by qualified social workers, psychologists, guidance counselors, or other qualified personnel.

Early Identification & Assessment of Disabilities in Children

The implementation of a formal plan for identifying a disability as early as possible in a child’s life.

Interpreting Services

Includes oral, cued, and sign language transliteration services; transcription services; special interpreting services for children who are deaf-blind.



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Medical Services

Services provided by a licensed physician to determine a child's medically related disability that results in the child's need for special education and related services.

Occupational Therapy

Services provided by a qualified occupational therapist; it includes improving, developing, restoring, or preventing impairment or loss of function.

Orientation & Mobility Services

Services provided to children who are blind or visually impaired to enable those students to attain systematic orientation to and safe movement within their environment.

Parent Counseling & Training

Assisting parents in understanding the special needs of their child and developing the necessary skills that will allow them to support the implementation of their child's IEP or individualized family service plan (IFSP).

Physical Therapy

Services provided by a qualified physical therapist.

Psychological Services

Includes administering psychological and educational tests; interpreting assessment results; planning and managing a program of psychological services; assisting in developing positive behavioral intervention strategies.

Recreation

Includes assessment of leisure function; therapeutic recreation services; recreation programs in schools and community agencies; leisure education.

Rehabilitation Counseling Services

Services provided by qualified personnel that focus on career development, employment preparation, achieving independence, and integration in the workplace and community of a student with a disability.

School Health Services

Health services provided by a qualified school nurse and designed to enable a child with a disability to receive a

free appropriate public education (FAPE) as described in the child's IEP.

Social Work Services

Includes preparing a social or developmental history on a child with a disability; group and individual counseling with the child and family; mobilizing school and community resources; assisting in developing positive behavioral intervention strategies.

Speech & Language Pathology Services

Includes identification, diagnosis, referral, and provision of services for children with speech or language impairments; counseling guidance of parents, children, and teachers regarding speech and language impairments.

Transportation

Includes travel to and from school, in and around school buildings; specialized equipment (such as adapted buses, lifts, and ramps).

Tips for Identifying and Implementing Related Services

- Ensure that related services support the child in making progress toward their IEP's academic or functional goals.
- Consider related services necessary to support both academic and nonacademic participation in extracurricular activities.
- Consider integrating related services during naturally occurring opportunities that align with the child's school day to promote access to instruction in the least restrictive environment. For example, provide physical therapy during regular recess or physical education classes.
- Create opportunities for educators and related services personnel to collaborate and maintain consistent communication about the child's progress even when barriers exist (e.g., travel between schools, contracted positions).



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