

Related Services Considerations

When related services are being considered for student, the Therapist should be at the meeting when this is discussed. A question for evaluation may not be added to an evaluation without the therapist being available to the team. In the case of a Speech Language question a Speech Language therapist must be at the meeting. In the case of Occupational or Physical therapy questions, at the least, the Therapist assigned to the school should be consulted *before* the question is added to the assessment. This may be done in person or by phone. Please consult the OT/PT booklet for interventions and appropriate questions.

IEP teams are sometimes faced with the difficult decision of dismissing related services for students for a variety of reasons. The factor to consider is if the service is supporting the specialized instruction (goals) written on the IEP. Related services must tie into these specialized services. It is appropriate for the IEP goals to be written and communicated to the team during the meeting and then the related service goals should be written to support the goals of specialized instruction.

Usually related services are those of Speech Language, Occupational Therapy, and Physical therapy. These may also include any of the other services as listed, for example Audiology, Transition, Consultation from HILIA, etc. Any goal written in a related service area *must* relate to specialized instruction goals written for classroom performance.

Related services *may* be dismissed on the IEP when the educational team, including the parent, believes the student either:

Has achieved all relevant goals
Student is functioning commiserate with ability
There is not educational impact of the delays on function of the student
Progress is not shown towards goals due to student initiative

An IEP must be held in order to dismiss services and the provider must be present to do so, in case there are questions or disagreement.

In the case of Speech Language, the Case Manager must be certain these services are *related* and not a primary or secondary eligibility. If Speech Language is a primary or secondary eligibility the re-evaluation process must be completed to dismiss services.

In the case of consultation from HILIA facilitators, careful consideration must be determined by the team. There are additional costs for consultations and teams should assign only the number of consults the team determines are appropriate for the needs of the student. The HILIA facilitator should be present at the meeting when determining consultation services; this includes assistive technology consults.

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