DIVISION OF SPECIALIZED EDUCATION (DSE) POLICY IN PRACTICE WEBINAR SERIES: Related Services under IDEA





Agenda

- A. Federal and State Requirements
- **B.** Eligibility for Related Services
- C. Designation of Appropriate Related Services by IEP Team
- D. Implementation of Related Services
- E. Related Services Documentation in SEDS
- F. Conclusion: Additional Resources



FEDERAL AND STATE REQUIREMENTS

Federal Related Services Definition

Individual with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

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.

34 C.F.R. §300.34(a)

Federal Requirements

Types of Related Services

- Counseling services
- Occupational therapy
- Physical therapy
- Speech-language pathology services
- Interpreting services
- Audiology
- Medical Services (diagnostic)
- Orientation and mobility services

- School health services and school nurse services
- Behavioral support
- Psychological services
- Social work services
- Rehabilitation counseling services
- Recreation
- Transportation
- Parent counseling and training

State-Level Requirements

District of Columbia Municipal Regulations (DCMR)

The LEA shall ensure that, beginning at age three, [Free Appropriate Public Education] FAPE is available to any child with a disability who needs special education and related services, including children who are suspended or expelled, and highly mobile children, such as migrant or homeless children, even if they are advancing from grade to grade.

5 D.C.M.R. §3002.1(e)

The services provided to the child must address all of the child's identified special education and related services needs and must be based on the child's unique needs and not on the child's disability.

5 D.C.M.R. §3002.1(f)

State-Level Related Services Policy

The Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) issued the Related Services Policy on January 5, 2010 to outline the related service provision requirements under the Individuals with Education Act (IDEA) 2004 and Title 5, Chapter 30 of the District of Columbia Municipal Regulations (DCMR). Local Education Agencies (LEAs) must provide related services to all eligible students with disabilities when such services are required in order for a child with a disability to benefit from special education.

Found at: http://osse.dc.gov/publication/related-services-policy-final-january-5-2010



ELIGIBILITY FOR RELATED SERVICES

Eligibility for Related Services

Requirements for receiving related services:

- Child with a specified disability who requires specialized instruction;
- Because of disability, child needs special education and related services; and
- Related service is required for child to benefit from special education.

OSSE's Related Services Policy, January 5, 2010, p. 7.

Eligibility for Related Services

- The provision of related services should enable a child to:
 - Advance toward attaining annual goals;
 - Make progress in the general education curriculum;
 - Participate in extracurricular and other nonacademic activities; and
 - Be educated and participate with non-disabled peers.

OSSE's Related Services Policy, January 5, 2010, p. 2.



DESIGNATION OF APPROPRIATE RELATED SERVICES BY IEP TEAM

Related services are appropriate when:

- Services are required to ensure the child benefits from special education.
- Services relate to child's educational needs and annual IEP goals.
- Based on relevant, current data (e.g. formal & informal assessments, progress reports by related service providers, teacher & parent observations, and all other relevant sources of information).

Determining Appropriate Services

- **Services are not based on specific disability** category.
- **❖** IEP Team must consider the educational impact related services may have on:
 - Child's academic achievement, and
 - Child's functional performance (e.g. social skills, emotional development, communication, and behavior).
- The IEP Team must include the input of appropriate related service providers.

The IEP must state:



- Projected date service will begin,
- Anticipated frequency and duration of service,
- Location of service, and
- Statement of supports/modifications for school personnel.

Specially Designed Instruction

- In order for a child to be eligible for related services, he/she must be in need of specialized instruction.
- Specialized instruction is the adaptation of content, methodology or delivery of instruction. Specialized instruction should be:
 - Adapted as appropriate to meet the unique needs of a child with a disability;
 - Designed to ensure access to the general curriculum; and
 - Designed to assist the child in meeting the District of Columbia educational standards.

OSSE's Related Services Policy, January 5, 2010, p. 6.

Special Education Services

- Mandatory for IEP
- Specially designed instruction.
- Adaptation of content, methodology or delivery of instruction.
- Assists student in accessing general education curriculum and in meeting the DC educational standards.

Related Services

- Not mandatory for IEP
- Services required to assist a student from benefiting from special education
- Support special education services directly or indirectly
- Address identified impairment resulting from disability

- All specially designed instruction must be provided by a qualified provider.
 34 C.F.R. §300.34(c)
- Specific related services that can count as "specially designed instruction" if the child requires no other special education services due to a lack of deficit in academic performance:
 - Speech-language services
 - Adaptive physical education
 - Orientation and mobility services

Speech/Language Services:

 May be provided as the only service on the IEP if it is determined that no other special education services are needed due to lack of deficit in academic performance.

Adaptive Physical Education:

- Not the same as physical education (P.E.) or physical therapy.
- Must be provided to same extent that P.E. is provided to non-disabled peers.

Orientation and Mobility:

 Is specialized instruction provided to enable students to orient to and move safely within their environments (i.e. school, home and community).

Speech & Language Services

Include:

- Diagnosis and appraisal of specific impairments
- Referral for medical or other professional attention
- Provision of speech and language services
- Counseling and guidance of parents, children, and teachers
- Does not require the identification or diagnosis of a speech and/or language disorder.
- May be provided as the only service (specialized instruction) on the IEP.

Specialized Transportation

- Not all students receiving special education services are eligible for transportation services
- Eligibility decided on case-by-case basis by IEP Team:
 - Using state-level eligibility criteria.
 - When necessary for child to receive FAPE;
 - When necessary for child to benefit from special education;
 - Not solely based on factors such as convenience or distance;
 - Decision reviewed annually by IEP Team;
 - Substantiate by supporting documents.





IMPLEMENTATION OF RELATED SERVICES

Consent for the Initial Provision of Services:

- Must be obtained prior to service delivery.
- LEA must have made reasonable attempts to obtain written consent.
- If parent refuses or fails to provide consent:
 - LEA is not required to create IEP or hold IEP Team meeting.
 - LEA may not use due process or mediation to challenge refusal of consent.

Parent's Right to Revoke Consent:

- Must be in writing.
- Upon revocation, an LEA:
 - Must provide prior written notice (PWN) to parent.
 - May not continue to provide services.
 - May not use due process or mediation to obtain consent for services.
 - Is not required to develop an IEP or hold a meeting.
 - Will not be held in violation of FAPE.
 - Is not required to amend child's records.
- Parent revocation of consent applies to ALL special education and related services.

OSSE's Related Services Policy, January 5, 2010, pp. 8-9.

LEA Oversight of Providers

- Ensure service delivery occurs as required by the IEP.
- Ensure qualified service providers document delivery of services and the student's rate of progress in SEDS.
- Document attempts to make up missed services.

LEA Oversight of Nonpublic Programs:

- Approve the nonpublic school's access to SEDS for specific students.
- Participate in the annual IEP review meeting and confirm that appropriate related services are designated.
- Track progress reports from the nonpublic.
- Ensure that all IEP amendments are justified and implemented.
- Take steps to work toward transitioning the student back into the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE).

NOTE: LEA remains responsible for ensuring that all related services are provided to the student and documented in SEDS.

OSSE's Non-Regulatory Guidance to the Related Services Policy, June 23, 2010, pp. 2-3.

Best Practices for Missed Services

- LEA develops written policy and procedures for missed services that is available to staff and parents.
- Document all instances of attempted services, including date, time, and explanation for missed session.
- Consider impact of missed session on child's progress on IEP goals.
- Ensure services are available and accessible regardless of cause or length of absences.
- Consult with parent if child repeatedly missed sessions.

Best Practices for Missed Services

- Consult with parent and ask if there are any obstacles to service delivery that can be addressed, for example:
 - Is there a preferential day to provide related service(s)?
 - Is there a preferential time to provide related service(s)?
 - Is parent or student having trouble with a specific service provider?

Best Practices for Missed Services: TIPS

- Communicate concerns with parent.
- Consider each child's individualized needs and situation.
- Make arrangements/contract with substitute providers.
- Make-up sessions in a timely manner.
- As a general practice, LEAs should attempt to make-up all missed sessions (extended absence of provider may lead to a denial of FAPE).

Missed Services Case Study

Student A

- IEP includes 2 hours/week speech therapy.
- Speech provider out sick for first week of May.
- Make-up session scheduled for second week of May.
- Student out sick for second & third weeks of May.
- Total of 6 hours of missed services.

Case Study: Considerations Toward Resolution

Student A

- Is a substitute provider is available?
- Are timely make-up sessions are scheduled?
- Is there any negative impact on Student A's progress on IEP goals from missed sessions?
- Should the IEP Team convene to discuss potential adjustments to service hours and goals?
- Are missed sessions and make-up sessions documented in SEDS?

Missed Services Case Study

Student B

- IEP includes 2 hours/week speech therapy.
- Behavior counseling is scheduled for Fridays.
- Student was chronically and predictably absent every Friday in September due to personal circumstances.
- Student was suspended for first week of October.

Case Study: Considerations Toward Resolution

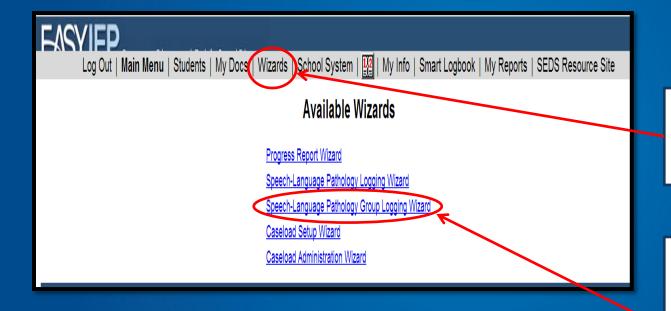
Student B

- Has an IEP meeting been scheduled to consult with parent about chronic absences?
- What scheduling adjustments need to be (should have been) made for Student B?
- Has the LEA followed procedural safeguards relating to discipline (i.e. provision of services during suspension)?
- Has the LEA documented all attempts of communication regarding absences and discipline, along with updating service logs?



RELATED SERVICES DOCUMENTATION IN THE SPECIAL EDUCATION DATA SYSTEM (SEDS)

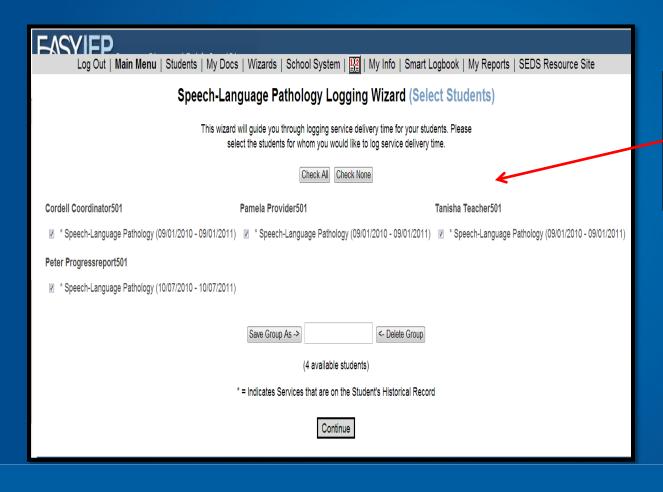
Related Services Provider Wizard



To begin: Click on the "Wizards" tab on the LEA's home screen.

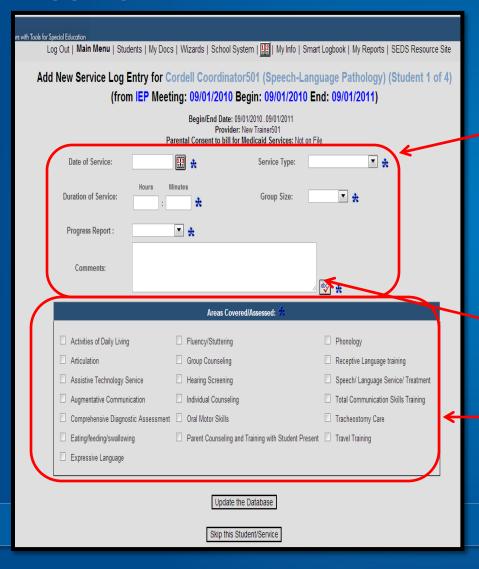
In order to enter information regarding a related Service, click on the link for the type of service for which data is being entered.

Logging Service Delivery for Students



Select the students for whom service data is being entered.

Logging Related Services



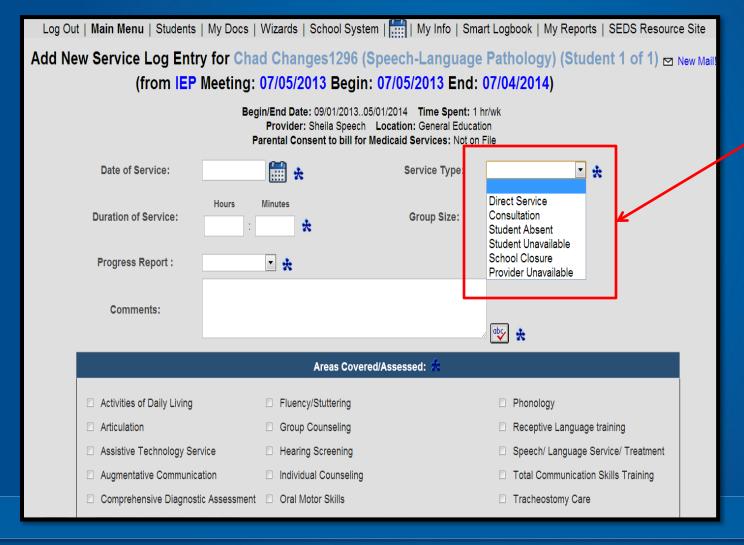
Enter the required information in the Service Log Entry:

- Date of Service
- Service Type
- Duration of Service
- Group Size
- Progress Report
- Comments

Providers must input how student is progressing on his/her goals and objectives.

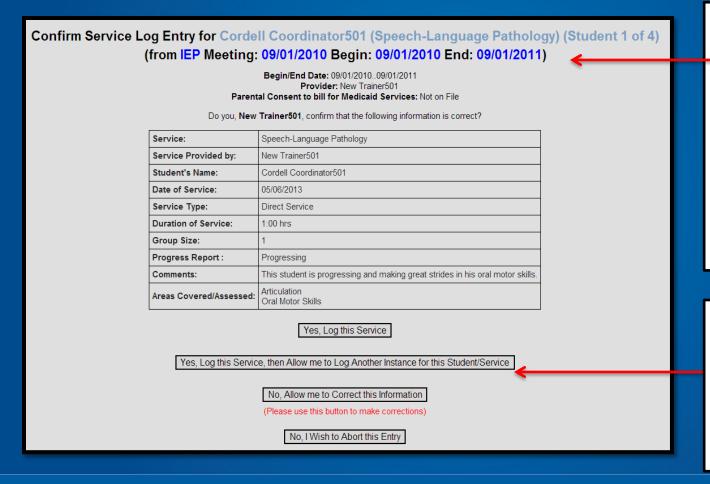
Check the areas covered during the service delivery time as well as any areas that were assessed.

Documenting Missed Services



Select the reason for the missed service

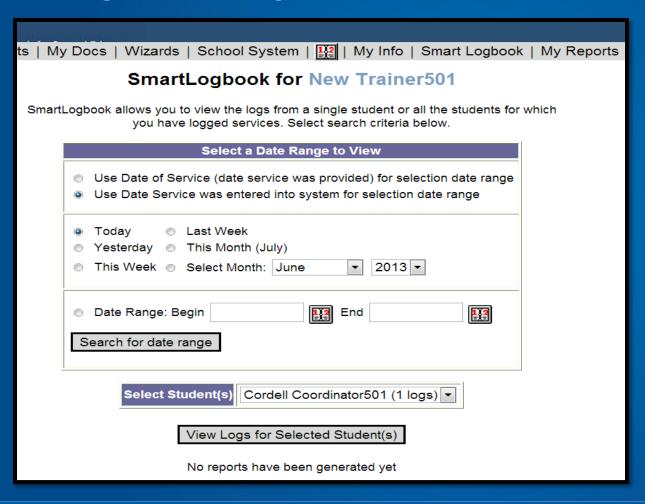
Confirming Service Log Entry



Confirmation
screen will
appear after
choosing which
related services
are relevant and
updating the
database.

Make sure this screen is accurate before clicking "Yes, Log this Service"

Using Smart Logbook to View Student Services



- By clicking "Smart Logbook," the user can view all logged services for a particular student.
- User can request the removal of an inaccurate log through their LEA Data Administrator (LDA).
- The user can also select a particular date range to search for a specific related service log.



CONCLUSION: ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Data for Monitoring and Compliance

Blackman/Jones Consent Decree

- ❖ Based on lawsuit from 1990s over systemic lack of provision of special education services in DC.
- Monitors implementation of Hearing Officer Decisions (HODs) and Settlement Agreements (SAs).
- Focuses on timely provision of services, including related services.
- Focuses on decreasing future due process complaints by improving the quality of special education programs in DC.

Data for Monitoring and Compliance

OSSE Tools to Assist LEAs in Performance:

- Weekly Prescribed vs. Provided Report
 - Compares relate service hours prescribed in IEP to actual service hours received
 - Dashboard report will be sent weekly to all LEAs
- DC Corrective Action Tracking System (DC CATS)
 - Web-based system for issuing monitoring reports
 - Used by LEAs to document correction of noncompliance
- Special Education Quality Review (SEQR) Tool
 - Web-based self-assessment tool for LEAs
 - Assesses school-level programs for students with disabilities
 - Quality indicators based on best practice and can help LEAs identify areas for improvement

Additional Resources

- Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)
 - 34 C.F.R. §300.34 http://idea.ed.gov
- District of Columbia Municipal Regulations (DCMR)
 - http://dcregs.org
- Related Services Policy
 - http://osse.dc.gov/service/policies-and-regulations
- SEDS Resource Site
 - https://sites.google.com/a/dc.gov/seds-help-resources/
- Special Education Quality Resource Tool (SEQR)
 - http://www.dcseqrtool.org

Thank You

For questions, please contact the Training and Technical Assistance Unit:

osse.tta@dc.gov





