



# IEP Tip Sheet

## What are Related Services?

This tip sheet introduces and briefly defines related services that promote progress by ensuring that students can benefit from special education and shares tips for implementation. To learn more, review the additional resources and check with state law for supplemental requirements. This is one of four tip sheets in a collection of the statement of services and aids in the individualized education program (IEP; [Sec. 300.320\(a\)\(4\)](#)). The overview tip sheet provides a summary of the complete statement.

### What Does IDEA Say?

According to [IDEA Sec. 300.34](#),

“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.”

### Let's Break It Down

#### Where & When?

The related services provided can vary in terms of the types of services, the means of delivery, and the frequency and location of services.

#### Why?

To assist a child with a disability to benefit from special education.

#### What?

While IDEA does not provide a comprehensive list, related services may include transportation or developmental, corrective, and other supportive services necessary to assist a child with a disability.

### Common Types and Examples

#### Common Services

#### IDEA definitions (based on [Sec. 300.34](#))



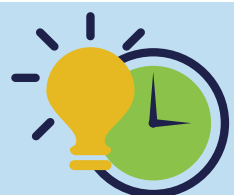
Audiology Services

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

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



Interpreting services

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



Medical services

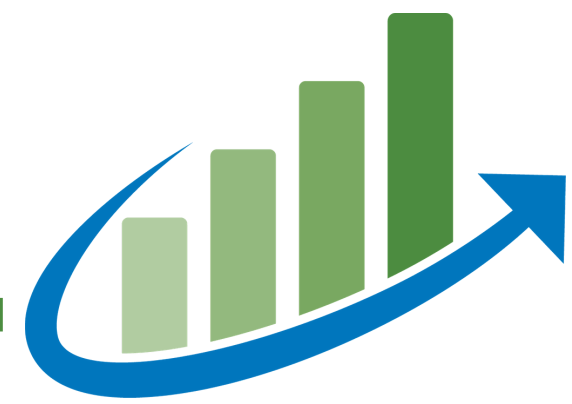
Services provided by a licensed physician.



Transportation

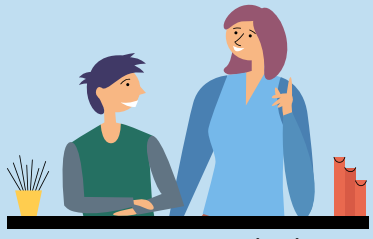
Travel to and from school, in and around school buildings; specialized equipment (such as adapted buses, lifts, and ramps).





## Common Services

## IDEA definitions (based on Sec. 300.34)



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.



Physical therapy

Services provided by a qualified physical therapist.



Psychological services

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



Recreation

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 as described in the child's IEP.



Social work services

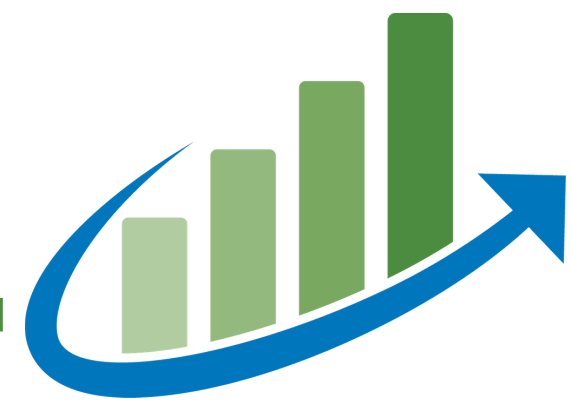
Preparing a social or developmental history on a child with a disability; group and individual counseling with the child and family; mobilizing school and community resources; assisting in developing positive behavioral intervention strategies.



Speech & language pathology services

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.





## Tips for Identifying and Implementing Related Services

- ✓ Ensure that related services support students 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 student'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 student progress even when barriers exist (e.g., travel between schools, contracted positions).

## Where can you learn more?



**Related Services: Common Supports for Students with Disabilities** (IRIS Center). This module offers a description of related services and an overview of the benefits they provide to students with disabilities in the general education classroom. It highlights five commonly used related services: physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech-language pathology services, social work services, and psychological services.



**Specifying Related Services in the IEP** (Center for Parent Information & Resources). This resource provides information about related services as described in IDEA, a brief overview of related services, and more in-depth information about what's excluded and how individual services are defined.



**PROGRESS Center Website**. The PROGRESS website includes additional information about developing high-quality IEPs and additional tip sheets in this series.