

A PEATC

Do You Know...



Related Services in the Individualized Education Program (IEP) Factsheet for Virginia's Parents

What Are Related Services?

If your child has an Individualized Education Program (**IEP**), they may be eligible for related services. Under the **Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)**, [related services](#) are a critical part of ensuring that your child receives a free appropriate public education (FAPE).

Related services are developmental, corrective, and other supportive services that help a student with a disability benefit from and make meaningful progress in their IEP goals, participate in academic and non-academic extracurricular activities, and access their education program. These services are not optional—they are **legally required** under IDEA when the IEP team determines they are necessary. If your child has a **504 plan**, they may be eligible for related services as well. Talk with your team!

Examples of Related Services

The most common related services include, but are not limited to:

- Speech-language therapy
- Occupational therapy (OT)
- Physical therapy (PT)
- Transportation
- Counseling or psychological services
- Audiology services
- Interpreting services (for students who are deaf or hard of hearing)
- Orientation and mobility services (for students with visual impairments)
- School nurse or health services
- Parent counseling and training

Tips for Parents

- **Be informed**—know your child's rights under IDEA.
- Keep **copies of all evaluations** and communications.
- If a related service is **not being delivered**, request documentation and the school's plan for resuming the service. Your child may be eligible for **compensatory education** if they are not receiving the related services in their IEP.
- Build a **positive relationship** with related service providers—they are valuable members of the team.
- Don't **hesitate to ask questions** during IEP meetings or request a meeting if your child's needs change and they need a new or different level of service.

Related Services in the Individualized Education Program (IEP)

Why Related Services Matter

Related services can be key to helping a child participate in school, make progress on their goals, and access their education in a meaningful way. Without these supports, a student may struggle to access instruction, communicate, move safely, or regulate behavior. IDEA recognizes that education is more than academics—students need physical, emotional, and social support to succeed. Related services can make that possible.

How Are Related Services Determined?

The IEP team, which includes the parent, determines whether a child needs related services. This decision is based on evaluations, observations, classroom performance, and input from parents, teachers, and specialists. The service must directly support the child's ability to make progress on their IEP goals or access the general education curriculum.

How to Request a Related Service

If you believe your child needs a related service, you have the right to request an IEP meeting at any time. Put your request in writing and explain your concerns. You may also request that the school conduct a new evaluation or update an existing one to determine whether the service is needed. The school must consider your request and respond within a reasonable timeframe. If you share a private evaluation, the team must consider it, but is not required to implement the recommendations.

What Should Be in the IEP?

If the IEP team agrees that a related service is needed, the IEP must include clear details such as:

- The specific type of service (e.g., occupational therapy)
- The frequency (how often the service will be provided)
- The duration (how long each session will last)
- The setting (e.g., general education classroom, separate therapy room)
- The provider (e.g., speech-language pathologist, physical therapist)
- Any goals related to the service, if appropriate

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION/RESOURCES:

[Related Services: Frequently Asked Questions, Articles, Cases - Wrightslaw](#)

[Related Services | Virginia Department of Education](#)

[Specifying Related Services in the IEP - Center for Parent Information and Resources](#)

[Virginia Regulations Governing Special Education Programs for Children with Disabilities in Virginia](#)

PEATC's mission focuses on building positive futures for Virginia's children by working collaboratively with families, schools, and communities to improve opportunities for excellence in education and success in school and community life.

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