



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: June 4, 2019
To: Chief School Administrators, Charter School and Renaissance School Project Leads, Administrators of Approved Private Schools for Students with Disabilities, Nonpublic School Administrators
Route To: Directors of Special Education
From: Carolyn J. Marano, Assistant Commissioner
Division of Student Services

Delivery of Related Services to Students with Disabilities Through Telepractice

On July 21, 2017, legislation (P.L. 2017, c.117) was signed into law, which permits certain healthcare providers to engage in “telemedicine” and “telepractice.” In a September 26, 2017 memorandum, the New Jersey Department of Education issued guidance on the implementation of this legislation and its effect on the delivery of related services to students with disabilities. The 2017 guidance informed local education agencies (LEAs), charter schools, nonpublic schools, and approved private schools for students with disabilities (APSSDs) they were permitted to provide speech-language services, occupational therapy, counseling and home instruction through telepractice. The guidance further stated the services could be provided by staff members or from providers contracted through a New Jersey Department of Education approved clinic or agency.

The 2017 guidance has been rescinded. Effective September 1, 2019, speech-language services, occupational therapy, counseling, and home instruction shall not be provided through telepractice. Clinics and agencies will not receive approval from the Department of Education to provide these services through telepractice.

In the event an LEA, charter school, nonpublic school, or APSSD is unable to hire sufficient staff to provide related services, it may contract with a Department of Education approved clinic or agency to provide in-person related services.

For more information regarding the amended guidance, please contact the Office of Special Education Policy and Dispute Resolution at (609) 376-9060.

c: Members, State Board of Education
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NJDOE Staff
Statewide Parent Advocacy Network
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