Course Overview

Related services are part of FAPE that must be provided to all children with disabilities within the State in order for the State to be eligible for funding under IDEIA. The child must need the services to “benefit” from special education. Provision of FAPE requires “related services” as well as special education. Related services must be provided at no cost to parents. This is part of the state’s responsibility to provide the child with a free appropriate public education.

The federal law in special education (The Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act, also known as IDEIA) includes a long list of related services that schools must provide to students who need them to receive a meaningful education. It is important to note, however, that this list is not exhaustive and does not include all of the services which a school district may be required to provide. If the student requires a service that is not on the list, it must still be provided by the school as long as the service is necessary for the student to be able to obtain “educational benefit” from special education.

The focus of this professional development course will be to answer the following questions about related services:

- What are related services?
- Are related services required under IDEIA?
- Do schools have to provide related services to all children with disabilities?
- Is a student with a disability that needs only a related service but not special education eligible for related services?
- Are schools required to provide related services necessary to maximize a child’s potential?
- What is the difference between direct services versus indirect services?
- Must related services be provided if there are staff shortages or extended absences?
- Are related services available to a child who attends a private school?
- How must schools provide related services?
- Who decides which related services are right for the child?
- Who pays for related services?
- Can related services be determined based on a particular disability category?
- What are the various types of related services?
- What is audiology?
- What is the related service of early identification and assessment of disabilities in children?
- What are interpreting services?
• What are medical services?
• What is occupational therapy (OT)?
• What are orientation and mobility services?
• What is parent counseling and training?
• What is physical therapy?
• What are psychological services?
• Who pays for counseling outside of school?
• Is a public agency responsible for paying for mental health services if the IEP Team determines that a child with a disability requires these services to receive FAPE and includes these services in the child’s IEP?
• What is recreation?
• What is rehabilitation counseling?
• What are school health and school nurse services?
• Can school districts require parents to attend school with their child to perform health-related services?
• What are social work services in schools?
• What are speech-language pathology services?
• Who is eligible for speech and language therapy?
• What are some of the issues facing parents and school districts regarding transportation, as a related service, of students with disabilities?
• What is travel training?
• What is excluded as a related service?
• Can artistic and cultural services, such as music therapy, be considered related services?
• What types of situations may require termination from related services?

Terminology you will learn in this course includes:

• Audiology
• Direct services
• Early identification and assessment of disabilities in children
• Indirect services
• Interpreting Services
• Medical services
• Occupational therapy (OT)
• Orientation and mobility services
• Parent counseling and training
• Physical therapy
• Psychological and school counseling
• Recreation
• Rehabilitation counseling
• Related services
• School health and school nurse services
• Social work services in schools
• Speech and language therapy
• Transportation and Travel training