



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

# DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: August 27, 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

## **Cessation of 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The 2017 guidance has been rescinded.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  
Lamont O. Repollet, Ed.D., Commissioner  
NJDOE Staff  
Statewide Parent Advocacy Network  
Garden State Coalition of Schools  
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