


MEMORANDUM

April 20, 2007
M088/06-07
305-995-1796

TO: Regional Superintendents

FROM: Will Gordillo, Administrative Director 
Division of Special Education

SUBJECT: SPEECH AND/OR LANGUAGE AS A RELATED SERVICE

This memorandum and attachment serve to inform all district, regional, and school site special education related services personnel, providers and parents of a change in legislation that affects speech and/or language (S/L) pathology services for students with disabilities. This legislation became effective July 1, 2006.

Changes in Section 1003.01, Florida Statutes, are a result of the finds of noncompliance by the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) in regards to the provision of S/L services for students with disabilities. Through the monitoring of Florida's implementation of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), OSEP found that Florida school districts had failed to provide these related services to children with disabilities who needed the services to benefit from special education.

To ensure implementation and compliance, the communication needs of the student must be considered at all individual educational plan (IEP) and Section 504 meetings in order to determine whether the student needs speech and/or language pathology services as a related service.

In November 2006, Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) initiated three half-day professional development trainings to inform regional center administrators, special education (SPED) instructional supervisors, staffing specialists, speech and language pathologists, special education providers, and related services personnel of this change in legislation and procedures for ensuring students who need speech and/or language pathology services as a related service receive that service.

Several professional development trainings were coordinated by the Division of Special Education and completed during the months of February and March 2007 to inform all district Local Education Agency (LEA) and private and charter school administrators and personnel of this legislation and procedures for ensuring students who need speech and/or language pathology services as a related service receive that service.

Additionally, the district will inform parents, advocates and advocacy groups of this change in legislation and procedures for compliance through the district's website and other appropriate communication venues.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact Dr. Deborah Finley, Instructional Supervisor, Division of Special Education, at 305-995-1864, or via email at dfinley@dadeschools.net.

WG/ckw
Attachments

cc: Dr. Lourdes C. Rovira
Ms. Brucie Ball
Dr. Deborah Finley
SPED Instructional Supervisors