

Citywide Related Services Policy and Practice: Assignment of Related Service Providers

- The DOE’s policy regarding assignment of related services is as follows:
 - First attempt: DOE service provider
 - Second attempt: Contracted agency
 - Third attempt: Independent provider
 - For pre-school-aged students, this arrangement is formed through an Independent Agreement (IA.)
 - For school aged students, this arrangement is formed through issuance of a Related Services Authorization (RSA.)
- The DOE has conducted multiple competitive solicitations over the last several years to garner more related services vendors.
 - As a result, the number of contracts awarded more than doubled as compared to contracts in place prior to this contract cycle.
 - The contracts are designed to support our on-going efforts to expand and strengthen coverage in all of the City’s communities; expedite assignment of providers to families; and improve service equity and quality.
- Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) are reviewed annually.
 - The process for identifying a provider for services indicated in IEPs is also annual.
 - RSAs and Independent Agreements will be issued if no contracted agency is available.
- Further information regarding the assignment of providers to preschool students is available on the DOE website [here](#). Information regarding related services and therapies and how they support students’ academic progress is available on the DOE website [here](#).
- Should families of school-aged students in public schools require assistance, they should contact their school principal. If they continue to have questions or concerns after doing so, they should contact their [district Superintendent](#). Families of school aged students in non-public schools and preschool aged students should contact their [CSE](#) (for school-aged students in non-public schools) or [CPSE](#) (for pre-school-aged students.)
 - Families may also call 311, or email RelatedServices@schools.nyc.gov with questions or concerns. This inbox is monitored by the Division of Specialized Instruction and Student Support (DSISS.)