

## **Teletherapy Guidelines for Related Service Providers**

### **1. What are the NYSED Guidelines for teletherapy for Students with Disabilities (SwDs)?**

- Teletherapy may only be used for the provision of direct services. Initial evaluations and reevaluations may not be conducted via teletherapy with students in NYS schools.
- Teletherapy in schools must include a video component.
- Districts must ensure the use of appropriate equipment (hardware, software and peripheral items) and connectivity that is able to address the unique needs of each student. Audio and video quality should be sufficient to deliver services that are equivalent to those provided in-person.
- Speech and Language: teletherapy services for SwDs should be limited to synchronous speech and language services (conducted using interactive audio and video connection in real time with student(s)).

### **2. What are the requirements necessary for Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Teachers of Speech Improvement (Related Service) providers?**

- Related Service (RS) providers are obliged to follow same guidelines as in-person services including adhering to AOTA, APTA, and ASHA Code of Ethics, state, and federal laws, state requirements, and NYC DOE guidelines.
- RS providers are required to maintain appropriate licensure requirements as in-person services
- Be aware of/and sensitive to cultural and linguistic variables impacting treatment via teletherapy

### **3. What are the standards of care I need to follow?**

- The standard of care is the equivalent to in-person services adhere to all the current standards of care as per federal, state, and NYC DOE guidelines
- TSIs must follow all current laws, regulations, practice, and ethical considerations as in-person services.
- Must be in compliance with HIPAA and FERPA requirements

### **4. What are the criteria for determining if teletherapy is appropriate for a student?**

- Can the student receive service appropriately via teletherapy?
- Are the student and family willing to receive services via teletherapy
- Does the student have any limitations that would not make him/her a good candidate for teletherapy? Consider the following variables:
  - Hearing, visual ability, manual dexterity
  - Ability to attend and sit during sessions;
  - behavior management/modifications appropriate for teletherapy



**Department of  
Education**

Chancellor Richard A. Carranza

**5. Should a parent or guardian be present for the teletherapy session?**

An authorized person should be available to support student with technology or to facilitate activities as needed. Older or more independent students may not require this level of support.

- Consider and communicate the type of support required from a parent/authorized guardian prior to the session
- Determine modifications that are necessary to support the student and their family

**6. What is my role in terms of technology?**

- The NYCDOE will ensure that all equipment used are compliant with Federal, State, and NYC laws, including HIPPA and FERPA
- The RS provider is required to:
  - Use the technology approved by the NYCDOE
  - Understand how to effectively use and operate technology used during sessions
  - Must be able to support the student and his/her family in use of the technology
  - Know who to reach out to for support if you have technical issues