



OFFICE OF P-12 EDUCATION: Office of Special Education  
COORDINATOR SPECIAL EDUCATION POLICY AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
Room 309 EB, 89 Washington Avenue • Albany, NY 12234  
[www.p12.nysed.gov/specialed/](http://www.p12.nysed.gov/specialed/)

Telephone (518) 473-4818  
Fax: (518) 473-5387

August 8, 2013

Elizabeth K. Schwartz LCAT MT-BA  
Alternatives for Children, Music Therapy Program  
14 Research Way  
Setauket, New York 11733

Dear Ms. Schwartz:

I am writing in response to July 29, 2013 letter regarding consideration of music therapy as a related service on a student's individualized education program (IEP). In your letter, you indicated that you had been provided clarification from the Department via email in the fall of 2011 regarding music therapy as a related service, but are now requesting this information on official letterhead.

"Related services" are defined in section 200.1(qq) of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education as "developmental, corrective, and other supportive services as are required to assist a student with a disability and includes speech-language pathology, audiology services, interpreting services, psychological services, physical therapy, occupational therapy, counseling services, including rehabilitation counseling services, orientation and mobility services, medical services as defined in this section, parent counseling and training, school health services, school nurse services, school social work, assistive technology services, appropriate access to recreation, including therapeutic recreation, other appropriate developmental or corrective support services, and other appropriate support services and includes the early identification and assessment of disabling conditions in students..." (<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/specialed/lawsregs/sect200.1.htm>).

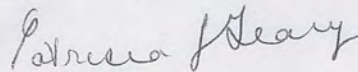
The list of related services in section 200.1(qq) of the Regulations is not exhaustive and may include other developmental, corrective, or supportive services (such as music therapy), if they are required to assist a student with a disability to benefit from special education in order for the student to receive a free appropriate public education. The members of the student's committee on special education (CSE) must make an individual determination, in light of each student's unique abilities and needs, about whether a service such as music therapy is needed to assist the student to benefit from special education. In accordance with section 200.4(d)(2)(v) of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education, if a student's CSE determines that a service such as music therapy is an appropriate related service for the student, this

recommendation would be indicated under the statement of the "Recommended Special Education Programs and Services" that will be provided for the student. On the New York State IEP form, related services recommendations that are not included in the list of drop-down related service options would be written in the text box that follows the list (*IEP Topic and Question Index*, <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/specialed/formsnotices/IEP/training/QA-411.pdf>, see Question 4 on page 25).

Additional information regarding related services can be found in the *Continuum of Special Education Services for School-Age Students with Disabilities* (<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/specialed/publications/policy/schoolagecontinuum.pdf>), and the *Guide to Quality Individualized Education Program (IEP) Development and Implementation* (Revised December 2010) (<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/specialed/publications/iepguidance/IEPguideDec2010.pdf>). Written guidance regarding related services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) is also available at the U.S. Department of Education's *Building the Legacy: IDEA 2004* website <http://idea.ed.gov/explore/view/p/%2Croot%2Cdynamic%2CQaCorner%2C3%2C>, see question E-1)

Thank you for contacting the New York State Education Department. I hope this provides the clarification you need. If you have questions or concerns about a specific school district's policies and practices or about a specific student, you may wish to contact the Special Education Quality Assurance (SEQA) Long Island Regional Office at (631) 952-3352 and speak to the Regional Associate assigned to the school district in question.

Sincerely,



Patricia J. Geary

c: Joanne LaCrosse  
Eileen Taylor