

July 29, 2024

Dear Nonpublic School Principal:

There are students attending your nonpublic private or religious school who have been identified by the Committee on Special Education as students with disabilities under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Since these students attend your nonpublic school at their own cost, they may be eligible for equitable services.

Students with disabilities in your school may either have an individualized education services plan (IESP) if the parents are New York State residents or a services plan (SP) if the parents are out-of-state residents attending a nonpublic school in NYC. Before school starts in September, NYCPS will share with you a list of students with IESPs/SPs whose parents have requested equitable services for the upcoming school year.

Parentally-placed students with disabilities attending nonpublic schools at their own cost may be recommended for services such as related services (e.g., speech and language, occupational and physical therapy, or counseling) and/or Special Education Teacher Support Services (SETSS). Such equitable services are provided by qualified and licensed related service providers or special education teachers employed or contracted by New York City Public Schools (NYCPS) to provide equitable services.

Related services will primarily be provided by contract agencies. Please work with the [Committee on Special Education \(CSE\)](#) and NYCPS-contracted related services agencies assigned to the school district in which your nonpublic school is located to ensure provision of related services.

For students recommended for SETSS, NYCPS will send an “Authorization for Independent Special Education Teacher Support Services for Parentally-Placed Student” (Independent SETSS Authorization) to each parent who requested equitable services within the required timeframe.

NYCPS is relying on the assistance of each nonpublic school to ensure that there are sufficient SETSS teachers for the students identified and that students are appropriately grouped and scheduled for services. IESPs and SPs may recommend students to receive SETSS individually or in a group.

To improve service provision through the Independent SETSS Authorization, NYCPS has increased the rates to independent SETSS providers. For the 2024-2025 school year (for services provided on or after July 1, 2024), hourly rates for qualified and vetted independent SETSS teachers are:

- 1 student - \$85.91;
- 2 students - \$100.22;
- 3 or 4 students - \$114.54;
- 5 to 8 students - \$143.18.

These are significant increases from our previous rates and should address the market concerns previously noted by SETSS providers, which led to an artificial enhanced rate market.

Once your nonpublic school has identified a SETSS provider for a student, the parent is to complete Section 2 of the Independent SETSS Authorization and submit the completed form to you to ensure that the SETSS provider completes Section 3, and then return the completed Independent SETSS Authorizations for all students identified, complete with schedules, to your [CSE](#) or to the office in Section 1 of the Independent SETSS Authorizations by fax or email if possible for processing.



As a reminder, if schools utilize an independent SETSS provider who is not an employee of the school, services may be scheduled during the school day. If schools utilize a school employee, then services must be delivered after the school day and after the employee's official work hours.

However, if there is no SETSS provider available for the students identified at your nonpublic school, NYCPS reserves the right to either provide an itinerant teacher to serve as a SETSS provider or offer an afterschool or weekend site to the parent to receive SETSS services. In addition to independent SETSS teachers, NYCPS and nonpublic schools may also secure the services of NYCPS teachers who may work pursuant to a waiver under the Independent SETSS Authorization.

If there are additional students with IESPs/SPs that require SETSS services, but for whom there is no SETSS provider available, you may coordinate with parents to ensure that those students receive sessions in groups. NYCPS may also add students to an independent SETSS provider's caseload when feasible.

The list of eligible providers is available at <http://schools.nyc.gov/special-education/supports-and-services/related-services/finding-an-independent-provider>. All SETSS providers who offer services must be certified in special education for the age group of students they serve, must register with the DOE, including clearing required DOE security checks, and accept the rates offered by DOE, before being authorized to begin service. (An application is available on the DOE website at the page noted above.) The DOE may also add other students to your SETSS provider's caseload, when appropriate.

Lastly, New York State Education Department has made clarifications regarding the filing of due process complaints by parents of students with IESPs. These changes will not affect NYCPS's delivery of services to parentally placed students with disabilities in private/parochial schools. However, if your nonpublic school cannot secure or NYCPS cannot provide related services providers or SETSS teachers through the pathways identified above, parents may seek additional support from the NYCPS' new ERES Unit at the email address: EquitableServicesAssistance@schools.nyc.gov

We look forward to partnering with you to ensure that our students with disabilities in New York City have the required services to succeed.

Sincerely,
New York City Public Schools