

Considerations for Release from Speech-Language Services

A student should be considered for release from speech-language services when one or more of the following occur:

The student has met all speech and/or language objectives on his/her IEP, and no additional concerns in the area of communication are presently noted.

The parent requests release and/or revokes consent for services.

Note: If ARC committee members believe release from services will be educationally detrimental to the student, the ARC should consult with their DOSE to consider the appropriateness of due process proceedings.

Specially Designed Instruction (SDI) no longer results in measurable benefits, despite documented use of a variety of appropriate approaches and/or strategies.

Student has developed compensatory/functional skills that allow him/her to access the general curriculum and to participate within his/her educational program.

Student's deficit areas can be managed through classroom accommodations and/or modifications.

Student's deficit areas can be managed by another service provider (S/L is no longer needed as a related service).

The student no longer needs speech-language therapy as a primary or related service in order to access and/or participate in the general curriculum.

Note: Before a student is released from services and determined to no longer be a child with a disability under IDEA, the LEA must re-evaluate the student according to state and local re-evaluation procedures.

A re-evaluation is not required if the student is graduating with a regular high school diploma or if the student has exceeded the age eligibility for FAPE under state law.

Additionally, a re-evaluation may not always be necessary in order to release a student receiving speech-language services as a related service, under the following conditions: the ARC is being held prior to the student's 3-year re-evaluation date AND the ARC has sufficient information to make a decision that speech-language services are not needed in order for the student to access and benefit from his/her educational program.

The ARC may consider 'suspension' of services for a brief period of time, due to special circumstances during which time speech-language services may be contraindicated (i.e., following palatal surgery, during serious illness, during extensive orthodontic work). Documentation of the ARC decision to suspend services should be made on the *Conference Summary* form. An ARC must be re-convened prior to re-instatement of services.

The ARC must document all discussion, data and evidence used to reach the decision to release a student from services. (It is suggested that the *ARC Conference Summary* form be used for this purpose.)