



October 25, 2023

Dear Families,

Over this school year, Mary Cariola School Program related services (Speech, OT, PT, Vision, Music, Counseling) will transition to a flexible related service schedule model as recommended at each individual student's CSE/CPSE meeting. The Flexible Related Service Delivery model is an evidence-based practice for school-based clinicians and is supported by the American Speech and Hearing Association, American Occupational Therapy Association and American Physical Therapy Association. This model is currently being used successfully in several local districts and BOCES programs in our region. As your child's Annual Review CSE/CPSE Meeting is scheduled, you may see a change in the way service levels are recommended for the regular school year (September-June).

In this model, service levels are recommended to be delivered over a month rather than weekly. Clinicians will deliver direct services for three weeks during a four-week period and indirect services and/or makeup services in the fourth week. Indirect services may include a variety of activities including but not limited to team collaboration, contact with families, classroom training with the student and classroom staff, makeup sessions and creation of specifically designed programs or materials uniquely beneficial to your child's program.

Benefits to using this model of service delivery include:

- Increased carryover and generalization of skills across all settings;
- Promotion of interdisciplinary teamwork to support classroom academic and therapy needs;
- Improved communication with classroom staff, other members of the student's team, and parents and caregivers;
- More opportunities to receive full IEP mandated services with student's assigned therapist.
- More time in the classroom with their peers;
- Increased opportunities for therapists to push into the classroom to model ways to work on goal areas in the natural environment within the school day; and
- Ability to provide support during the indirect week without being limited to a 30-minute time slot.

The chart below gives examples of how weekly services may look using the Flexible Related Service Delivery model. Please note that recommendations will be made based upon your child's individual needs.

Quick Reference to Clinical Scheduling	
Weekly Model:	Flexible RS Delivery Model:
1x30 individual/week	3x30 ind/month + 5 hours consult/year
1x30 individual/week + 1x30 group/week	3x30 ind/month + 3x30 gr/month +10 hours consult/year
2x30 individual/week	6x30 ind/month + 10 hours consult/year
4x30 group/week	12x30 gr/month +20 hours consult/year
*Consult hours=Total number of minutes per week of direct service x 10 months	

Due to the shortened duration, during the Extended School Year (July-August) related services will be provided in a weekly model.

Details about your child's recommended individual service levels will be shared during their program recommendation meeting. Please direct any questions to your child's social worker or any manager of the related services teams.

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A video with more details is posted on our website for your convenience.

Please visit this online link to learn more about the 3:1 Flexible Schedule Model: <https://www.marycariola.org/schoolcommunications>

Sincerely,

Christine M. Sheffer, Ed. D.
Superintendent

