**Providing Speech and Language Interventions**

**February 22, 2024 Zoom Support Meeting
Questions and Answers**

1. **In the Special School District (SSD) of St. Louis County dual district system, should the Speech Language Pathologists (SLPs) employed by SSD provide interventions for students who do not have Individualized Education Programs (IEPs)?**

There is no requirement or expectation that SSD provide interventions for students who do not have IEPs, however, SSD could choose to voluntarily use up to 15 percent of IDEA Part B funds to develop and implement [Coordinated Early Intervening Services](https://dese.mo.gov/financial-admin-services/special-education-finance/coordinated-early-intervening-services) (CEIS).

1. **Is parent permission required for screenings if they are for response to intervention (RTI) purposes?**

There are variables that make this question difficult to answer in a general way, so it is best to examine your district’s RTI policy.

A distinction must be made between circumstances covered by RTI or multi-tiered systems of support (MTSS) policy and other circumstances in which the Office of Special Education Program’s (OSEP) guidance about use of screening applies and may be different. The April 7, 2009, OSEP letter to Torres addresses screening tools and special education evaluations. The Torres letter indicates nothing in IDEA requires or prevents states or local education agencies (LEAs) from, “developing and implementing policies that permit screening children to determine if evaluations are necessary” or from developing and implementing policies to temporarily remove a student from the classroom to administer a screening instrument to determine appropriate instruction for the child. The Torres letter and subsequent OSEP guidance stipulates screening cannot be used to delay an evaluation.

When consent is required, consider that reaching out about consent is a great opportunity to partner with parents.

1. **With the 3:1 model, do you use the indirect week to make up sessions when students/therapists are absent?**

Yes, but very rarely do minutes have to be made up because they are very rarely missed. See slides 32 through 37 of the [Providing Speech and Language Interventions: PowerPoint](https://dese.mo.gov/media/file/providing-speech-and-language-interventions-powerpoint) for more details about the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) 3:1 model in the school setting. Additional information about the 3:1 model may also be found in the Speech Improvement Program Myth of the Month (include link when the MOM is posted.)