



August 16, 2005

Elizabeth Payer
Institute of Education Sciences
U.S. Department of Education
555 New Jersey Avenue, NW
Room 602c
Washington, DC 20208

Dear Ms. Payer,

The National Alliance of Pupil Services Organizations (NAPSO) is a coalition of national professional organizations whose members provide a variety of school-based prevention and intervention services to assist students in becoming effective learners and productive citizens. NAPSO organizations represent over a million members, including school counselors, school nurses, psychologists, school psychologists, social workers and school social workers; occupational, physical, and creative arts therapists; and speech-language pathologists, audiologists, students, parents, and pupil services administrators. NAPSO promotes interdisciplinary practice and cooperation and advocates for ensuring access to quality pupil services for all students.

NAPSO appreciates the opportunity to submit comments regarding priorities to be proposed to the National Board for Education Sciences of the Institute of Education Sciences. We respectfully submit the following recommendations for consideration.

IES should invest in related services research to enhance the knowledge base regarding the impact of related service interventions on academic achievement for students with disabilities. As part of that investment, IES should consider activities that

- Investigate how the provision of related services in early intervention under IDEA Part C prepares young children for school (school readiness).
- Study the direct relationship between the implementation of related services and students' IFSP and IEP goal achievement.
- Determine the role of related services in Response-To-Intervention (RTI) and Early Intervening Approaches.
- Examine the impact of caseload/workforce shortages and working conditions on provision of related services.
- Explore dose-response issues, i.e., which related services are needed by which students, and for what length of time using what method of service delivery?
- Research which related services are effective in addressing K-12 priorities of reading, writing, mathematics, science, discipline, and social interactions.
- Investigate the impact of related services on removing barriers to learning.

- Study how related services can collaborate and work with teachers and administrators to develop a positive school climate.

Thank you for your serious consideration of our research recommendations. The related services professions within NAPS0 respect the Institute's attention to rigorous scientific standards and would welcome the opportunity to build the related services' research capacity.

Chris Campbell
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