

# **School Districts Need Help**

#### **Lack of Skilled Professionals**

There's a severe lack of certified special education support nationwide, with an ever-increasing gap between the number of clinicians needed and those licensed to serve. Despite enrollment and graduation rates in certified programs rising, this gap continues to grow, districts struggle to find personnel where they simply don't exist, resulting in thousands of untreated students every day.

When proper services are inaccessible, caseloads surpass capacity, depriving children of interventions necessary for their well-being and limiting their future contributions.

### **Job Turnover**

Assuming clinical staff is in place can be dangerous for schools, as students may be left without necessary services when providers leave unexpectedly

due to job changes, last-minute leaves, or retirement. Such resignations have a significant impact on special education departments' well-thought-out plans, resulting in skill regression and lost therapy hours during transitions. No matter the time of year when they occur, these transitions are especially difficult for students.

### **Compliance Concerns**

School districts are mandated to provide timely services that align with FAPE and meet the needs of each student in accordance with their IEPs. Districts must have providers in place for daily needs, reassessments, screenings, and assessments for new students. Special Education Departments require easy access to data regarding student sessions and assessments. Without this access, students may get left behind, resulting in information delays and compliance concerns.



# **The Problems TinyEYE Solves**

Speech-language pathologist, Marnee Brick, and businessman and entrepreneur, Greg Sutton, spent the last 18 years building the world's first company to provide online speech therapy services. Since then, TinyEYE has delivered over 1,000,000 online therapy sessions to over 30,000 school-aged students and has grown to include occupational and mental health therapy services.

We match your schools and students with experienced TinyEYE service providers who specialize in your student population and management needs. Your provider delivers quality care throughout the students' service journey, maintaining regulatory requirements, providing session reports, assessments, IEP reports, therapy plans, and parent-friendly materials to support skill transfer. All service documentation is available to the student's support team through TinyEYE's secure online platform.

Our solutions range from direct therapy for eligible children to inclusive activities during scheduled "drop-in times." We maintain HIPAA and FERPA requirements while providing access to crucial service data, offering every student a meaningful and effective experience.

# **Why Teletherapy Matters**

Every day, thousands of students with speech, occupational, and mental health struggles are left untreated due to the difficulty of accessing proper services. The aftermath of the pandemic has only resulted in an exponential increase in mental health concerns among students and an extreme shortage of accessible therapists for schools.

Children rely on these crucial services to develop the skills necessary to communicate, understand, and express themselves. These fundamental skills are necessary to provide the foundation of learning, which supports all school subjects and life skills. The reality is that many schools are not able to find quality therapists to hire due to geographic or socioeconomic barriers, as well as low regional retention of professionals.

As time goes on, their learning and independence gaps widen, adding strain to education and community systems. Online therapy bridges that gap by providing a therapist here and now.





# Is Teletherapy Effective?

There has been extensive research done on the efficacy of telepractice in conducting therapy for special education students, one such study being the Kent State University research study "A Pilot Investigation of Speech Sound Disorder Intervention Delivered by Telehealth to School-Age Children." In this study, researchers provided articulation therapy to school-age children through either telehealth or side-by-side therapy.

Results indicated that online therapy is equally effective to side-by-side therapy, with **students** in the telehealth platform demonstrating great mastery of their Individualized Education Plan (IEP) goals. The software selected for use in the current study for both therapy conditions was TinyEYE Speech Therapy Software (Sutton & Brick, 2005). (Pg. 34)

When it comes to teletherapy, it's normal to worry if meaningful connections can be made when special education support services are provided through a screen.

Let this heartwarming story from a TinyEYE service provider be a testament to the fact that, at TinyEYE, we work with schools to ensure students receive services tailored to their specific needs:

"I have a student who struggles a great deal with selfesteem. Recently, I discovered that she has a very BIG talent for knitting, so we began building on that. As a result, she is teaching me how! She creates lesson plans, videos, and demonstrations for me, and has renamed our regular session time as 'Knitting Club'. Here's my first attempt under her expert instruction!"

- Deanna Brown, BSW, RSW





# Why Choose TinyEYE?

#### **Available Therapists**

TinyEYE's recruitment team does all the work of sourcing, recruiting, and retaining high-quality therapists to cover caseloads for you. Instead of hiring the first therapist that walks through your door, or working with multiple staffing agencies, we quickly secure effective providers that are licensed in your state or province and can serve your students via our award-winning teletherapy platform.

Pulling from our network of over 2,000 dedicated service providers, our clinicians can work independently or alongside your existing team.

#### **Therapist Performance Tracking**

TinyEYE has over 18 years of experience selecting only the best—of—the—best when it comes to clinicians. We have developed an effective and reliable process for hiring service providers, known as our **Confirmation of Excellence program**. It ensures our therapists have the necessary clinical skills as well as Character, Skill & Commitment, and Spark.

School districts and therapists choose TinyEYE because it's the company that CARES; cares about making sure no child is left behind and cares about a service provider's experience as part of the team.

### **Student Engagement**

We foster engagement by creating a sense of belonging, promoting student involvement and investment in their work. We first help our students feel safe and joyful about participating. Next, we show our students how our students how capable they already are. Finally, we engage our students in activities that leverage their ability to participate in their daily lives and explore their imagination. While focusing on the students' experience, our therapists track performance and coach the target skills throughout the session.

#### **Visibility, Transparency, & Efficiency**

Over 35,000 hours of research, design, engineering, and development time has been invested into the creation of our award-winning platform, Monarch.

Our platform was built by a therapist for therapy, and every update and iteration since has utilized feedback from clinicians across multiple disciplines. Monarch has streamlined planning and reporting processes, allowing our providers to spend an average of 85% of their time in direct therapy, in comparison to the average rate of 68% by on-site therapists.

Additionally, our performance tracking system gives the student's authorized team a current view of attendance, progress, and documentation.

#### **Customer Care**

Where for many vendors the contract may be the 'end of the road', with TinyEYE it is just the beginning. Our customer care team is responsible for introducing you to your therapist, and outside of live technical support as needed during sessions, will be your primary contact should you have any questions or concerns throughout your journey with TinyEYE. We provide reliable care that you can count on.

