



COVID-19 FAQ's for Families and Parents of Students with Disabilities
Created April 2, 2020

Dear Families and Parents of Students with Disabilities,

During this time, there are some important things to remember. Any actions taken by the district or school regarding closures are for the safety of all students and school personnel working with students. As districts and schools are determining the most appropriate steps to ensure student and staff safety, we want to take this time to provide guidance relating to students with disabilities and their services. It is extremely important for families and schools to collaborate and communicate regarding services for students with disabilities.

What will happen to my child's services when school is canceled for all students due to Covid-19?

1. If a school closure causes educational services for all students to stop, then the school and or the district is generally not required to provide services to the students eligible for special education services during the same period of time.
2. After an extended closure, districts are responsible for reviewing how the closure impacted the delivery of special education and related services to students eligible for special education services. Students may need compensatory services to make up missed services.
3. If annual IEP reviews or eligibility reviews are due during a school closure, please work with your school closely to meet as soon as school is back in session or through alternate means, such as video or audio conference calls.

What will happen to my child's services when a school is closed but educational services continue to be provided to all students?

1. If the district has extended school closures but continues to provide educational services to all students, the district remains responsible for the free appropriate public education (FAPE) of its students eligible for special education services with an individualized education program (IEP).
2. The district will be communicating with parents and guardians during,

and after school closures regarding their child's IEP services. The district and schools will work to ensure that all students receive services to the most appropriate extent possible.

3. Although special education or related services may need to be adjusted, IEP teams should work to ensure that a student on an IEP receives services comparable to all other students. Services might include schoolwork packets, online learning, or some other learning adapted to the student's needs and location.

4. After an extended closure, districts are responsible for reviewing how the closure impacted the delivery of special education and related services to a student eligible for special education services. Students may need compensatory services to make up missed services.

5. If annual IEP review or eligibility reviews are due during this time, please work with your school closely to meet as soon as school is back in session to schedule meetings or to conduct the meeting through alternate means, such as video or audio conference calls.

Additional Guidance

State of Idaho Resources for Schools, Parents, and Students

<https://coronavirus.idaho.gov/resources-for-schools/>

U.S. Department of Education Q & A on Providing Services to Children with Disabilities During the Coronavirus Disease 2019 Outbreak

<https://www2.ed.gov/policy/speced/guid/idea/memosdcltrs/qa-covid-19-03-12-2020>

Again, our focus continuum is a) safety and health of all involved (students, families, staff members, community, etc.); b) education and learning in a flexible delivery methodology; and c) working collaboratively to meet the needs of the student. Best wishes to each of you as we work together as a team to reduce the impact of the current health and educational challenges. If you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact either Lorena Ryan or Sue Young.

Sincerely,

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