

## CORONAVIRUS/COVID-19

### FAQs FOR PARENTS AND GUARDIANS OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Greetings Parents and Guardians,

As we venture down these uncharted territories, please keep in mind that as schools close, the priority is to make sure our students are safe and healthy. The Office of Special Education encourages ongoing communication between the parent and the school so please reach out to your child's school if you have questions.

#### **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/district is generally not required to provide services to the affected 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 additional services or extended school year services to make up missed services.
3. If annual IEP reviews or re-evaluation reviews are due during school closure, please work with your school closely 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?**

If a district has extended school closures but continues to provide educational services to all students, the district will remain responsible for the free appropriate public education (FAPE) of its students eligible for special education services with an individualized education program (IEP).

1. Districts should be communicating with parents and guardians prior to, during, and after a school closure regarding their child's IEP services. Districts and schools will work to ensure that all students receive appropriate educational services.
2. Although special education or related services may need to be adjusted, IEP teams should work to ensure that a student with an IEP receives services comparable to all other students. Services might include school work packets, online learning, or some other learning applicable to the student's needs and location.
3. 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 additional services or extended school year services to make up missed services.
4. If annual IEP reviews or re-evaluation reviews are due during this time, please work with your school closely to meet through alternate means, such as video, audio conference calls or in person once school has resumed.



**Dr. Jennifer McCormick**  
Superintendent of Public Instruction

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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Additional guidance

Office of Special Education Program:

<https://sites.ed.gov/idea/idea-files/q-and-a-providing-services-to-children-with-disabilities-during-the-coronavirus-disease-2019-outbreak/>