

COVID-19 School Closure Q&A: IEP Team Meetings

Does the school have to hold remote IEP Team Meetings while schools are closed?

- Yes. Timelines are still in effect. Schools should collaborate with parents to hold as many IEP Team Meetings as possible now while schools are closed.
- The school should talk with you about whether you want to have the Team Meeting now (by phone or video/Zoom) or if you want to wait until schools reopen.
- You do not have to agree to have the IEP Meeting remotely now. But for many families it may be helpful to have the IEP Meeting now to talk about concerns and get needed supports and services in place for when schools re-open.
- If you think it is important to have an IEP meeting remotely to address your child's needs, let the district know in an email or letter. The school should schedule the IEP Meeting even more quickly if:
 - Your child is going into a new program or school
 - Your child is in crisis
 - Your child is not able to access remote instruction and services
 - There is a rejected IEP

Who will attend my child's remote IEP Team Meeting?

- All team members must be present for remote IEP Meetings unless you agree to excuse a team member from the meeting.

Does the school have to use an interpreter if my primary language is not English?

- Yes. Schools must make an interpreter available for IEP meetings if the parent's primary language is not English.

What happens if my child's IEP expires while the schools are closed? Will their services stop?

- The current IEP must be followed even if it expires during the time schools are closed.
- The school should give your child as many IEP services as possible remotely while schools are closed.
- Your child will probably not be able to get everything on their IEP due to the COVID-19 safety orders.

What can I do if the district will not agree to hold an IEP meeting while schools are closed?

- You can file an online complaint with the Problem Resolution System (PRS) at the Department of Secondary and Elementary Education (DESE) by clicking [here](#). If you have questions, you can contact PRS at 781-338-3700 or by email compliance@doe.mass.edu.
- You can also [request mediation](#) or [file for hearing](#) at the Bureau of Special Education Appeals (BSEA)

**If you have more questions about your rights:
Contact MAC's Helpline: 617-357-8431
massadvocates.org/helpline**