WEEKLY CHAT

EXTENDED SCHOOL YEAR

SUMMER SERVICES FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES DURING THE PANDEMIC

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MAC is grateful for the generous support of the Nancy Lurie Marks Family Foundation & Kenrose Kitchen Table Foundation
Schools must provide Extended School Year services

--Based on child’s IEP (FAPE)

--Health and safety remain top priorities

--IEPs will continue to be implemented differently
NEW: Districts should provide in-person services to as many “high priority” students as possible this summer

- Schools must follow health and safety requirements
- Schools should prioritize in-person services for students with greatest needs
REQUIRED STEPS BEFORE STARTING IN-PERSON SERVICES

1) Identify “high priority” students and communicate with parents
2) Hire ESY staff
3) Purchase protective equipment
4) Develop full range of safety protocols needed
5) Complete all staff training regarding safety protocols
WHEN CAN IN-PERSON SERVICES BEGIN

- In-person services can begin July 6
- Start as soon as possible after completing safety steps
ESY SERVICES DURING COVID-19

• Almost all students will continue to receive remote learning

• Some students will receive in-person services for part of the day
WHO RECEIVES IN-PERSON SERVICES

Districts should identify “high-priority” or ‘high-need” students as those:

- Most significant disabilities, substantial regression with remote learning
- Need many summer services (i.e. ABA, OT, speech, instruction)
- Need more time to learn new COVID-19 procedures for fall re-opening
WHAT SERVICES CAN BE PROVIDED IN-PERSON

• Individual instruction

• Small group instruction

• Therapies (i.e. ABA, speech, occupational, and physical therapy)
HOW IN-PERSON SERVICES ARE PROVIDED

- Students and teachers must wear masks (unless unable)
- Maximum 10 students in a group and individuals 6 feet apart
- For students needing hands-on assistance: staff must wear protective equipment
If families are worried about health and safety of in-school services:

1) Parents can choose to continue remote learning at home

2) Districts can offer in-person home services, addressing safety
ESY TRANSPORTATION

- If possible, reimburse parents to provide transportation
- District must provide transportation if parents are unable
- District must inform parents how transportation will meet safety requirements
Districts must notify each family how their child will receive ESY:

- Daily schedule of in-person (if any) and remote services
- Names of educators providing services
- Schedule for regular communication with family and student
- Start date for each type of service
• Districts must communicate in parent’s primary language

• Interpreters and translations provided if needed
What you can do now

- If you want to consider in-person services, contact the district and explain why your child is “high priority”

- Tell district about child’s need for multiple services, regression, difficulty with re-opening, other concerns

- Ask any questions you have about health and safety

- Consider home services if concerned about safety of school services
WHAT ELSE CAN PARENTS DO

• Document what school is offering and how your child is doing  [APP]

• E-mail the principal or team leader

• E-mail the special ed director or superintendent

• File a PRS [complaint] or [mediation]

• Contact MAC’s [Helpline] at 617-357-8431 ext. 3224
Compensatory Services

• Will be evaluated case by case

• Best to get as many services as possible now.
SCHOOLS RE-OPENING FALL

- State plans to announce guidance in mid-June for Fall re-opening

- Parents can identify concerns to help ensure a smooth transition

- As districts announce plans, identify accommodations and services needed to meet your child’s needs
RESOURCES

• Helpline: (617) 357-8431 or massadvocates.org/helpline

• massadvocates.org/covid19

• Blank COVID-19 Resources Remote Learning Plan & Sample Remote Learning Plan from DESE massadvocates.org/newcovidresources

• **Q&A on Special Education and Covid 19**

• Previous Chats: massadvocates.org/events

• Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram: @MassAdvocates

• Additional questions & topic suggestions Contact communications@massadvocates.org
DESE Special Education Corona Virus website: http://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/sped.html

Problem Resolution at DESE: To file a complaint

Bureau of Special Education Appeals Mediation: click here

Bureau of Special Education Appeals Hearing: Click here

DESE Timelines Technical Assistance Advisory: Click here

Updated DESE Q&A: Click here