MAC COVID-19 CHAT

SPECIAL EDUCATION DURING COVID-19
LIVE INSTRUCTION, STUDENT ENGAGEMENT
Q & A

JANUARY 14, 2021

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MAC is grateful for the generous support of
the Nancy Lurie Marks Family Foundation, Tower Foundation, &
Kenrose Kitchen Table Foundation
REMOTE LEARNING MODEL

• At least **40 hours synchronous instruction** over 10 days

• Synchronous instruction **each school day**

• Able to **Interact with teachers** each school day

**IEPs must still be fully implemented**
HYBRID LEARNING MODEL

- At least 35 hours synchronous instruction over 10 days
- Able to Interact with teachers each school day

IEPs must still be fully implemented
IEPS DURING COVID-19

IEP: IMPORTANT REMINDER

IEPs must be based on your child’s needs, including **all** instruction and services necessary to meet your child’s needs.

IEPs can **not** be based on limited services currently available due to COVID-19 health and safety requirements.
STUDENT ENGAGEMENT GUIDANCE

• Ongoing two-way communication with families in primary language
• Technology support
• Time for culture and relationship building

• Address barriers to participation in remote learning
  - Technology
  - Inadequate space at home
  - Language access
Discipline

• “Strongly recommends” that districts “avoid using exclusionary discipline” during COVID-19.
Child Requiring Assistance (CRA):

• Districts should “explore and document” all possible opportunities to support the student and family to overcome barriers to attendance BEFORE filing a CRA.
Filing 51A reports with DCF for abuse or neglect:

- Districts should “explore and document” all possible opportunities to support the student and families to overcome barriers to engagement and attendance.
Contact the school district or file a PRS complaint if:

• School is not complying with live instruction requirements
• School is not following Student Engagement guidance
• Child is unable to access remote learning
• Child needs in-person learning
• Child is not receiving needed IEP services, evaluations or IEP meetings
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 BSEA mediation. Or BSEA hearing]

• Contact MAC’s [Helpline at 617-357-8431 ext. 3224]
School asked for information about my child’s learning, progress and needs since COVID-19

COVID-19 Special education Learning Plan

Schedule-- how, who, and where receive IEP services

School established regular, ongoing communication

I know who to contact for help with technology

I know who to contact if concerned about my child’s progress

Evaluations, re-evaluations, and Team meetings provided

COVID-19 compensatory services

Live learning requirements are met

School is following student engagement guidelines
RESOURCES

• Contact MAC’s Helpline: (617) 357-8431 or massadvocates.org/helpline

• Visit MAC COVID-19 Information Clearinghouse massadvocates.org/covid19

• File a PRS complaint or BSEA mediation

• View our Sample Email for Requesting In-Person Special Education Services

• View our Q&A on Special Education COVID Compensatory Services

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

• Join MAC Autism Connections on Facebook!