MAC COVID-19 CHAT

RETURN TO IN-PERSON LEARNING
Q&A WITH ATTORNEYS

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

- Elementary schools: 5 days/week by April 5
- Middle schools: 5 days/week by April 28
- High schools: Details announced in April
- Parents can choose remote learning
IN-PERSON LEARNING

• Waiver process for districts

• Must comply with health and safety requirements
  -- 3 feet (6 feet meals)
  -- masks all grades

• Pooled testing—must accommodate students with disabilities
IN-PERSON LEARNING

- Determine supports needed for smooth transition
  -- partner with parents
  -- students with autism, anxiety, or who have difficulty with changes
  -- Social stories, building tours, visits, etc.

- Proactively provide instruction, supports, social skills instruction supporting positive behavior
  -- Discipline used as last resort

- Regular, 2-way communication in parents’ primary language

- IEPs must be fully implemented
REMOTE LEARNING

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
IEP meetings for all students who may need compensatory services to address regression or lack of progress

- Past school year and current school year
- Districts should prioritize getting information and data from families
- If file complaint with DESE: be aware 1 year limit
RECOVERY AND RACIAL EQUITY CONCERNS

- COVID-19 has disproportionately impacted Black and Latinx students
- Discipline, restraints, seclusion
- Removal to separate settings
- Regression and loss of skills
$170 billion in dedicated education funding

Can be used to reduce class sizes and modify spaces for social distancing, modernize HVAC systems. Hire more school custodians, nurses and counselor

Can be used to add supports to address student trauma and leaning loss - to update mental health services and support students’ emotional well-being

Prioritization of teachers for vaccine

Set aside for COVID-19 Educational Equity challenge Grant to support partnerships with school communities to advance equity and evidence-based policies

$7 billion to purchase technology
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!