

DESE SPED Zoom 5/15/20

Shared a pic from Devereaux- animals on zoom!

Challenging News: Recommended approach- contingency planning for ESY

No announcement yet from the Governor- plan to continue remote but develop readiness for in-person instruction if it becomes possible; anticipate a decision on summer services/camps, etc. soon

EEC to release re-entry guidance

FY20 In District Circuit Breaker Claiming

For this fiscal year, able to claim the fully agreed upon planned IEP services

They will be providing a training on Circuit Breaker/how to claim

Guidance on timelines and remote assessments- hopefully next week or early the week after

- No broad waiver of rights
- Consent
- Documenting Parent Agreement
- School Working Days
- Professional Judgement
- Early Childhood

Remote Assessment Developments: the research is “young,” the field is quickly responding, will likely be a hybrid model after reentry

Photo- glass between evaluator and student, headphones, etc. as an example

Questions about reliability and validity of assessments

3 Components of evals: history, observation, testing (history part can happen now)

Resource guide now includes a remote assessments section

Texas example- remote assessment guidance

Compensatory Services:

Individual decision based upon unique needs of a student; keep implementing as many services as you can; document progress monitor and prepare for final progress reports

More info coming on compensatory

Not a one size fits all solution

Progress reports for the end of the year: 2 weeks ago slides had examples about how to progress monitor now, produce final progress reports for the end of the year

Financial: responsibility of OOD placements, difficulties in planning for potential costs, additional funding to other costs

Legal: specific regulatory obligation, flexibility

Logistical: determination of quantity, staffing, scheduling, documentation, students graduating from hs, students turning 22/turning 3

FAQ update- changes: includes the 4 phases of work in response to covid, info presented in previous webinars, revised topic headings, updates informed by feedback

New sections- early childhood and sped, strategies for family engagement, when in person instruction resumes

Jay Sullivan re. school choice, claiming of in district services

Q&A: Misinformation that Russell shared with advocates that parents can reject the remote learning plan and go to mediation- Russell: no, it's notification not something that would be rejected and sent to BSEA

What if you haven't gotten an agreement from parents but IEP end date has passed?

Russell: try to get it now. Hold virtual meetings if you can.

Extended evals: several students placed in ext. evals in Feb/March- can these be extended?

Russell: get agreement from the family and it can go ahead. If can't get agreement, keep working at it, make sure parent is aware of their procedural rights. Document.

Clarify the 2 room model- showing just to let you know what is being discussed across the state, approach with curiosity, not a mandate

Comment that there is no sped rep on the DESE work group- NINA: There are several sped reps. Ann Gilligan is in charge of the group and there is sped rep.

Clarification from "additional" to "compensatory" services- loss of skill vs. denied service

Russell: we attempted to shift the language to additional services but USED guidance is about compensatory services, didn't want to cause confusion in Ma

Lots of comments about school working days- will look at this

Progress reports- if schools not issuing typical report cards, progress reports still the same? Yes, progress reports need to continue. This guidance has been consistent throughout this time, even though grade reports are credit/no credit. Documentation is important.

ESY- if possible in person, do we need to shift to that, or can we just stick with remote and not shift to in person if state allows. People worried about environment, PPE.

Russell: wait on Gov guidance, DPH, plan for both; won't be able to say we are just going to stick with remote if IEP says in person and it's allowed; can't exonerate people and say just do remote

Yes, giving input to gov. re ESY and equipment

If ESY remote, are new remote learning plans needed or amendments need to be done? Russell: will talk about this internally but prob if your remote plan looks like what you will do for ESY perhaps not a change, will try to give most pragmatic solution