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## OFFICE OF SPECIAL SERVICES

# Parent Guide

## Supporting Students with Disabilities: Access and Compliance During COVID-19

### Overview

On March 15, 2020, Governor Henry McMaster declared an extended closure of all South Carolina schools in an effort to prevent the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19).

### Action Steps

The Colleton County School District has outlined a plan to provide a continuity of learning for our students and teachers through a combination of remote and online learning. This plan will ensure that learning is appropriate to our mission and that it supports our strong community and our valued relationships between faculty and students.

### Office of Special Services Guidance Documents

- ✓ [Questions and Answers on Providing Services to Children with Disabilities during the Coronavirus Disease 2019 Outbreak, March 2020 – Published by the US Department of Education](#)
- ✓ [Office of Special Education Services Compliance Guide during COVID-19](#)
- ✓ [Office of Special Services Guide to Access During COVID-19](#)
- ✓ [Talking to Children About COVID-19 \(Coronavirus\): A Parent Resource](#)

## **SPS' Parent Questions & Answers to Address Compliance**

***Please note: All guidance related to compliance are summarized from the US Department of Education document:***

[Questions and Answers for Providing Services to Students with Disabilities During the Coronavirus 2019 Outbreak](#)

**What are we supposed to do about scheduled annual reviews or amend IEP meetings during the time that the district is closed?**

- o Answer: There is nothing we can do at this time. We will reschedule these meetings when we return. If a timeline is exceeded, we will note this in Prior Written Notice (PWN) where it is stated that the annual review timeline was exceeded or the IEP amend meeting was rescheduled, due to the district being closed for health reasons.

**What are we supposed to do to ensure that our students are making progress towards the annual goals in their IEPs?**

- o Answer: With current guidance we have received from the United States Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), if we are required to close for an extended period of time due to COVID-19, we are to provide alternative modes of instructional delivery to all students receiving special education and related services. Please take into consideration the individual needs of the students you serve in preparing materials. According to OSEP, we are not expected to provide all service minutes that will be missed in a unique situation like this. However, we are to ensure that students continue to make progress toward their annual IEP goals.

**What about progress reports?**

- o Answer: The timeframe to provide progress reports are indicated in the each student's IEP (e.g. 4.5 weeks or 9 weeks with new guidance provided). Progress reports will be emailed to parents or printed and sent home when the district reopens.

**How will my child continue to receive related services (Speech, OT, PT, etc.)?**

- o Answer: Related service providers have developed learning packets for each student. The child's teacher will provide to parent during pick up time of materials and/or materials will be emailed.

**The alternate assessment window just opened. What is going to happen if we don't get testing done in time?**

- o Answer: The alternate assessment window is from March 9th through April 24th. It is too early for us to know whether or not the window will be extended. This is a decision that will be made at the state level and CCSD will stay in contact and let administrators and teachers know as soon as additional information is provided.

**We are evaluating students who may be determined eligible and we may serve. Is there anything that we should do?**

- o Answer: The School Psychologist and/or Speech Language Pathologist will complete any open evaluations where all data has been collected. School Psychologists will email rating scales and questionnaires to teachers and parents to be completed virtually. The School Psychologist will be completing rating scales with some parents via phone conference.

**If an evaluation has occurred and eligibility has been determined by the IEP team, what do we do about developing and implementing an IEP for the student?**

- o Answer: The IEP team should work during the extended break to draft an IEP for newly eligible students. When school reconvenes, the IEP team should schedule and conduct a meeting to implement the IEP. It should be noted in the Prior Written Notice (PWN) that timeline was exceeded due to an extended school closure related to the COVID-19 outbreak.

**Are we going to owe compensatory services for the time we are out?**

- o Answer: If we are providing access to the general education curriculum and addressing IEP goals with alternative modes of instruction, it is likely that minimal services will be owed. These decisions will be made on an individual basis. For students that show SIGNIFICANT regression due to being out would be considered for ESY.

**My child is homebased or on Medical Homebound. How will instruction be delivered?**

- o Answer:

All direct contact for homebased and Medical Homebound instruction is suspended at this time. Here is the message that was sent to teachers and providers who instruct students who homebased or on medical homebound.

Special Education Teachers and Providers:

Review the documents recently posted by Special Services from our Google Classroom to identify resources and materials that can be provided to parents for these students during this time.

Regular Education Teachers:

Identify resources and materials from the student's teachers (ie, packets sent to parents for students) that can be provided to parents for these students during this time.

All Medical Homebound Instructors:

Please make sure and document contacts to parents when this material is sent and also make scheduled contacts with parents to check on student's progress with this alternate method of instructional delivery.