

9 Facts

FOR STUDENTS WITH IEPs & 504 PLANS DURING COVID-19



Developed from MDE-OSE Guidance

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EQUAL ACCESS to general education materials

Any educational materials or activities provided to general education students must be accessible to students with disabilities.

INDIVIDUALIZED Contingency Learning Plan

Schools are encouraged to create Contingency Learning Plans for each child who has an IEP or 504 plan in collaboration with parents. Plans may be informal and no formal edits to the IEP are required.



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UNCHANGED TIMELINES for IEP processes & complaints

Annual IEP reviews, first time evaluations, and reevaluations must be completed on time. Some testing requires in-person assessment, parents and teams are encouraged to find mutually agreeable solutions at the parent's convenience. The state of Michigan will continue to process special education complaints and conduct investigations. Districts are still required to complete existing corrective action within the established time frame, but they may request an extension.

IN PROCESS EVALUATIONS and additional supports

Districts are encouraged to consider additional enrichment or other supports for students undergoing evaluation for special education services. Additional supports could include an informal Contingency Learning Plan based on that student's suspected eligibility.



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COMPENSATORY SERVICES may be needed next school year

Covid-19 restrictions make certain special education services difficult or impossible to provide for the remainder of this school year and compensatory services may be needed. Schools must make individualized decisions about the need for compensatory services by the first annual IEP review of the 20-21 school year.

SCHOOL DAYS How are they being counted?

All timelines based on the number of school days were frozen starting March 16th. On March 16th, Michigan stopped counting school days. School days resumed on the date Continuity of Learning Plans were implemented in your district. This date must appear on all Plans.



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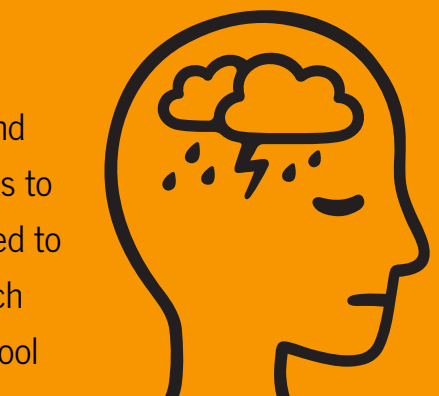


STUDENT PRIVACY in video groups online

Each student has the Right to Privacy under FERPA. Teachers and school staff can provide modifications and accommodations during video conferences without violating your child's privacy. However, it is not okay for teachers to name the modification, or to record your child in a virtual classroom and post it online.

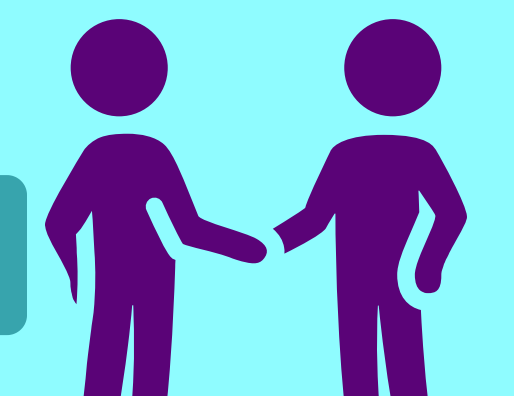
MENTAL HEALTH services to support students

These complex times can cause increased anxiety, depression, and dysregulation and Continuity of Learning Plans must include steps to support the mental health of students. School staff are encouraged to connect with parents about the social-emotional well-being of each student. Parents are also encouraged to contact their child's school to find out about available mental health services and supports.



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COLLABORATION between parents and schools

The Covid-19 pandemic has caused hardships for both families and educators. It is key for school staff and parents to work together to find mutually agreeable solutions around special education services and timelines. Collaboration may also look like schools working with community providers to reduce barriers and ensure students receive a continuum of care.

Need help? Contact our Student Rights Helpline
Leave a message (734) 482-0489 and we will get back to you
or email helpline@studentadvocacycenter.org