

SPECIAL EDUCATION DURING COVID-19

We are all in this together!

WHAT'S THE SAME?

PARENTS' RIGHTS UNDER THE INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT (IDEA) ARE STILL INTACT

Students continue to have a right to a free appropriate public education (FAPE) even though it may look and feel different right now. Your child's IEP is the same. Your child's teacher is the same. Timelines for evaluations and IEP meetings are unchanged at this time. Progress reports will be provided on the same time schedule as before school closings.

COMMUNICATION IS KEY

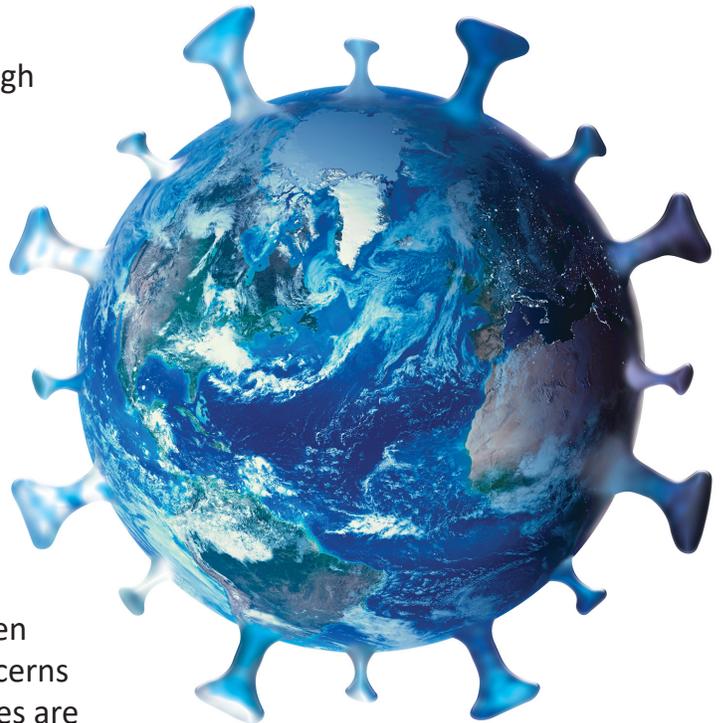
Now, more than ever, it is important to work cooperatively and creatively with your IEP team to ensure positive outcomes for your child. Teachers and parents are all operating under a situation that has likely never been seen by any of us before. As always, if you have concerns about your child's progress or how their services are being provided, you can start by having a conversation with your child's teacher and explaining the issue. If necessary, bringing your concerns to the principal or special education administrator for the school district can be helpful.

RAISING SPECIAL KIDS CAN HELP

This is an unprecedented time. You may be feeling overwhelmed. Just as we have for the past 40 years, Raising Special Kids is here to help strengthen families of children with disabilities and special healthcare needs. We are focused yet nimble. As highly-qualified professionals who also happen to be parents of children with special needs, we are uniquely qualified to assist parents during this uncertain time.



Raising
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Kids



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WHAT'S CHANGED?

LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION

School buildings are closed for the rest of the 2019-20 school year. Students are participating in distance learning and are either using an online platform or have had packets delivered to their homes from the school. Although the location has changed, IEP placements have remained the same. Physical, occupational, speech therapies and meetings are being held over the phone, through electronic conferencing, or other any method that works for everyone.

COMMUNICATION

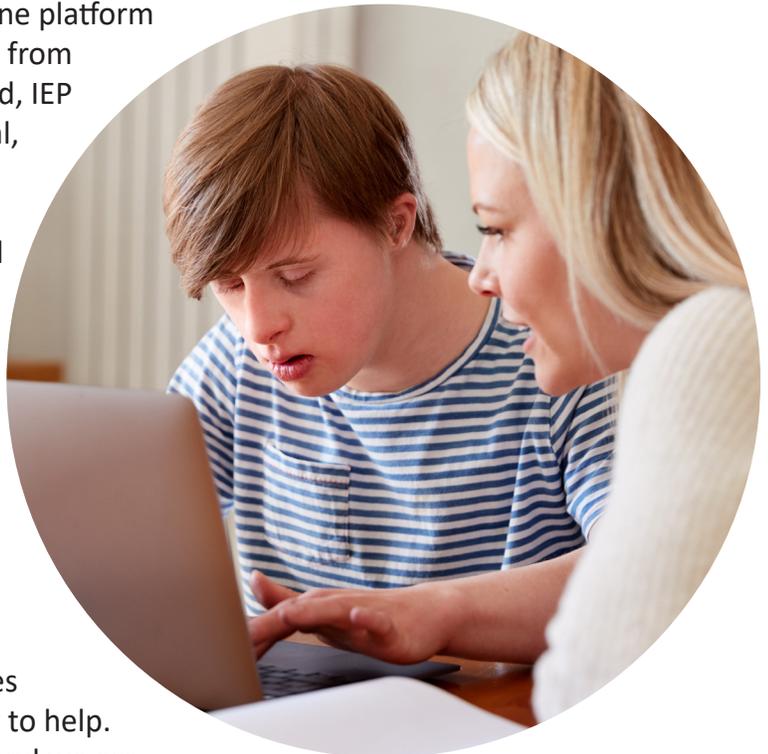
It is important for families to read emails/ letters from their child's teacher and from the district. Communicate with your child's teacher and therapists regularly and respond as soon as you can to requests. Focus on collaboration.

GENERAL TIPS

Document what your child is doing, challenges they encounter and things you've done to try to help. Recognize this situation is new for everyone and we are finding solutions together. You can always request a meeting with your child's teacher or an IEP meeting to discuss your concerns. **Perhaps most importantly, remember to take care of yourself and your family.** Things will not be perfect. Just do the best you can. It is OK!

NOTES

Arizona schools closed beginning on March 16. Know the date your school started providing distance learning. If your child's IEP team agrees, your child may be entitled to compensatory services. If your child does not attempt to participate in distance learning, it could interfere with future compensatory services. Compensatory services will likely be provided when schools re-open.



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