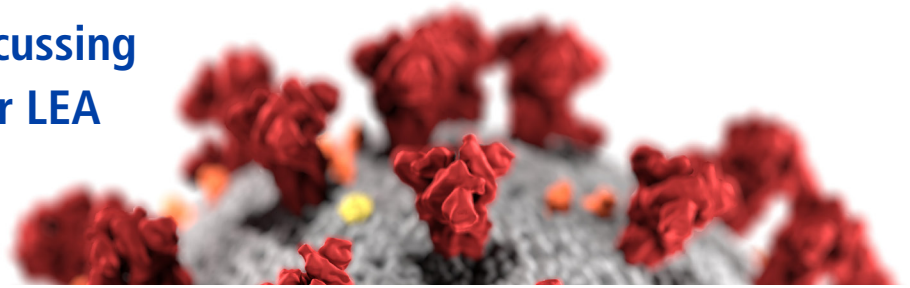


SPECIAL EDUCATION TOOLKIT

Questions to ask when discussing distance learning with your LEA



The federal government has provided guidance on implementing IDEA during this time of CRISIS, which generally states to continue providing services. How those services change during distance learning is left to state and local decision-making. The following are some questions to consider raising with Local Educational Agencies and State Educational Agencies in order to gain clarity on implementation:

1. How will you use the additional funding provided in the COVID-19 relief bills to address the needs of children with IEPs?
 - What next steps do you have to implement this?
 - What is the timeline?
 - What do Local Educational Agencies and schools need to do in order to prepare and be best positioned to leverage such additional funding and supports?
2. How are you directing special education educators and specialists to deploy distance learning? Do you have your plan in writing?
3. What guidance will you provide regarding best in-class practices during this distance learning time period?
4. What resources and training will you provide so that best in-class practices are actually possible to implement?
5. Specific to technology resources, how are you giving children and educators access to the technology (i.e. devices) and digital connectivity (i.e. mobile hotspots) they need in order to access or provide digital learning and support services while staying in compliance with social distancing and stay-at-home orders?
6. What supports are in place for parents who are not technologically savvy?
7. How are parents who do not speak English being supported?
8. What are the procedures and protocols for communicating with parents of students with IEPs to provide updates on services and supports during distance learning?
9. In regards to legal timelines for initial assessments, triennials and annual IEPs, what are LEAs doing to address difficulties in keeping those timelines?
10. How are services delivered documented?
11. What are LEAs doing to prevent teacher burnout due to the increasing demands of distance learning, student contact, time spent on devices and not ideal working situations e.g. having kids to teach, lack of daycare for infant/toddlers, elder parents, disabled family members in household while providing distance learning?