

Post High School Transition During School Closures

June 2, 2020

Nancy E. Farnsworth

Educational Advocate

Autism Connections and Family Empowerment



Guidance for Remote Learning

Federal Guidance:

<https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/frontpage/faq/rr/policyguidance/Supple%20Fact%20Sheet%203.21.20%20FINAL.pdf>

DESE Remote Learning Guidance updated on April 24, 2020:

https://www.masc.org/images/news/2020/DESE_Remote-Learning_Guidance.pdf

DESE Guidance for Remote Learning Guidance for Families of English Learners in May, 2020:

<http://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/ele/?section=family-guidance>

Diploma and Graduation

Modifications to the Competency Determination for the Class of 2020

The Board of Elementary and Secondary Education voted to temporarily modify the competency determination requirement for current high school seniors during the COVID-19 emergency. Students are able to access emergency process which allows them to earn this requirement through successful completion of a relevant high school course.

Early College Courses

Guidance should be given to students whose Early College courses have already been transitioned to online format:

- Students who wish to continue in a course for college credit and have the support and resources to do so, should be allowed, assuming that K-12 and Higher Education partners are able to sustain their work together to provide support to those students who elect to continue their courses. Partners should maintain outreach to Early College students and monitor students' academic progress to the best of their ability.
- Students unable or uncomfortable continuing their courses in a modified format should be given a withdrawal from the course without consequence on their transcript

Adult Education Programs

Moving Assessments Forward – May 20, 2020

<http://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/acls/2020-0520moving-assessments-forward.html>

Strengthening Adult Remote Learning – May 15, 2020

<http://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/acls.html>

Compensatory Services

- Will be decided on a case-by case basis.
- Districts are advised to deliver as much of the IEP services, to the extent it is feasibly possible, to reduce the need for compensatory services.
- Upon school opening, the Team must convene to decide the impact on services delivery due to school closure.
 - They are recommended to keep in mind financial, legal and logistical criteria.
 - Services, progress and maintenance data should be collected
 - Amount of time of remote learning.
 - Upon reopen, or sooner if possible, data will be reviewed
 - Determine how best to recoup any regression and/or lack of progress while minimizing ongoing progress.
 - Determine mutual agreement or hold meeting/do assessment
- Additional federal and state guidance on compensatory services is anticipated

688 Referral

- During COVID-19 crisis, schools can submit, via [Virtual Gateway](#) a referral. Requirements needed are a minimum of:
 - Most recent IEP.
 - Most recent 3-year evaluation.
- Parent consent during the COVID-19 crisis can be:
 - Wet signature or e-signature.
 - Email consent.
 - Verbal consent documented in school or agency staff notes.

Helpful Tools and Links:

DESE COVID-19 Resource Page:

<http://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/sped.html>

*Includes weekly Zoom meetings presentations for Special Education Directors.

<http://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/>

*Updates and resources for general education that are applicable to special education students.

Resources for Supporting Students For Educators and Providers:

<http://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/sped/sped-additional-resources.xlsx>

*Updated on May 22, 2020

Helpful Tools and Links:

- **Special Education Leaders Meeting (includes secondary transition at home recommendations)**
 - https://spanmass.org/uploads/3/4/9/4/34944876/dese_ei_transition_guidance.pdf
 - Charting a Life Course
 - Self-Determination Skills
 - Independent Living Skills
 - Explore a Future Career
- **Secondary Transition Resources (Updated Weekly through National Technical Assistance Center-NTACT) on transition:**
 - <https://transitionta.org/covid19>

Helpful Tools and Links:

Adult Education COVID-19 Information and Resources:

<http://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/acls.html>

Adult and Community Learning Services (ACLS):

<http://www.doe.mass.edu/news/news.aspx?id=25974>

CCTE (College Career and Technical Education – Updated on May 29, 2020):

<http://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/ccte.html>

NESCA – Planning and Preparing for College

<https://nescanewton.com/planning-and-preparing-for-college-from-home-during-covid19/>

Helpful Tools and Links:

The Student Remote Learning Plan:

<https://files.constantcontact.com/2cce95d1401/920816a3-3746-4a0e-9243-18968e516280.pdf>

The Student Daily Remote Learning Record:

<https://files.constantcontact.com/2cce95d1401/be8a6bee-8eaf-4914-a700-68082250b68a.pdf>

Helpful Tools and Links:

Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission (MRC):

<https://www.mass.gov/service-details/coronavirus-updates-from-mrc>

Mass Advocates for Children:

<https://www.massadvocates.org/covid19/#special-education>

Special Needs Advocacy Network (SPaN):


<https://spanmass.org/covid-19.html>

Questions and Contact Info

Nancy E. Farnsworth
(413) 779-5087

Nancy.farnsworth@pathlightgroup.org



- autismconnectionsma.org
- Autismconnections@pathlightgroup.org
- We have two Facebook pages:  *Autism Connections and Autism Connections Berkshire*

Autism Connections is a  Pathlight program

