Disability Specific Issues

Education:

In short, there are some great examples of how special ed, related services, and tele-health therapy can be provided—based on adaptations being used on the outside.

Some resources are copied below.

How can these ideas be translated to the inside? Not everything can-- but many can be. It takes will and creativity.

IDEA and Section 504 eligible students are still eligible inside, so they have a right to IEP services they did not receive during this time, per their annual goals and compensatory ed.

Release/Re-Entry:

We are seeing in the adult side that prisoners with disabilities are sometimes not included in COVID release programs because they need more support. That can be illegal, its wrong, and we want to make sure that folks know to look out for it.

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Online Instructional Strategies During School Closure

Department of Education’s Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP):

- Guidance on Virtual Schools (August 5, 2016)

- Solid pragmatic suggestions included in “Preparing For Infectious Disease: Department Of Education Recommendations To Ensure The Continuity Of Teaching And Learning For Schools (K-12) During Extended Student Absence Or School Dismissal”

- “Readout of the U.S. Department of Education’s Coronavirus Conference Call with Chief State School Officers” (March 12, 2020)

Chapter Three (beginning on page 46) of this book: “Equity Matters 2016 Digital & Online Learning for Students with Disabilities The Center on Online Learning and Students with Disabilities”
• See also other resources on the “The Center on Online Learning and Students with Disabilities” website

National Association of State Directors of Special Education (NASDSE) Online Learning for Students with Disabilities: Considerations for SEA Policies and Procedures (February 2017)

Center on Online Learning and Students with Disabilities “Report on the Stakeholder Forum on Elementary and Secondary Online Learning and Students with Disabilities“ Especially pages 5-17 (March 1, 2017)

California Department of Education “Resources that Support Distance Learning, Supporting Students with Disabilities in Distance Learning”

Parent Support

Journal of Interactive Online Learning’s “Online learning and students with disabilities: Parent Perspectives”

Student Privacy

Department of Education’s “Protecting Student Privacy: FERPA and the Coronavirus” (March 12, 2020)

Bullying

The Office for Civil Rights “Letter to Education Leaders on Preventing and Addressing potential discrimination associated with COVID-19” (March 4, 2020)

Health/Nutrition Issues

Center for Disease Control (CDC):

• “Guidance on Considerations for School Closures” (March 13, 2020)

• “Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection Recommendations: Interim Recommendations for US Community Facilities with Suspected/Confirmed Coronavirus Disease”

• Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools (REMS) Technical Assistance (TA) Center website as useful information, resources, trainings, and tools for addressing infectious diseases, related topics, and protecting the school community.

• “Addressing Biological Hazards That May Impact Students, Staff, and Visitors”

The U.S. Department of Agriculture released new information on flexibilities that will allow students to access meal service during school closures (March 10, 2020)

Legal

Department of Education’s “Questions and Answers on Providing Services to Children with Disabilities During the COVID-19 Outbreak” (March 12, 2020)

State Materials

Colorado

Disability Law Colorado Factsheets “COVID-19 & Educational Rights for Parents” and “Derechos Educativos para Padres ante el COVID-19” (March 27, 2020)

Idaho

DisAbility Rights Idaho Letter to Idaho State Department of Special Education – Virtual Learning (April 8, 2020)

Maine

Disability Rights Maine Post “Protecting the Rights of Students with Disabilities During and After the COVID-19 Educational Disruption” (April 21, 2020)

Maryland
Special Education and Your Child with an IEP During the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Brief Guide for Parents (April 3, 2020)

IEP Modification/Amendment or Individualized Continuity of Learning Plans: Preserving The Rights You and Your Child Have Under the Law: Brief Guide for Parents #2 (April 3, 2020)

New York


Texas

Disability Rights Texas Handout “Coronavirus and the Rights of Students with Disabilities” (March 12, 2020)

Disability Rights Texas Handout “COVID-19 and Students with Disabilities in College” (March 20, 2020)

Washington State

Washington State Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction’s Statement on “Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Guidance & Resources”

Sample COVID-19 Court & Attorney Response Protocols

Colorado Office of the Child Representative’s “COVID-19 Resources”

Washington State, King County Superior Court Emergency Order Dependency Court (March 13, 2020)

Washington State, King County Superior Court Emergency Order Family Court (March 12, 2020)

Louisiana Supreme Court Guidance Washington, DC Court Protocols (March 12, 2020)

Last updated April 23, 2020