

This document contains the following information related to special education services during the COVID-19 Crisis:

- Virtual IEP Meetings
- Remote Learning and Related Services
- Consent and Waiver Forms
- Services to Students: Page I of the IEP
- Recovery Services

Virtual IEP Meetings

During the pandemic, IEP meetings can be requested and held virtually or by phone. In person meetings may also occur if the members of the IEP team all agree to this option. Meeting notices are still required for virtual IEP meetings.

To effectively participate in a virtual IEP meeting, remember, as a parent you have the right to:

- Request a draft of the IEP prior to the meeting
- Audio record the meeting
- Invite someone to participate in the meeting
- Ask for Prior Written Notice documenting any proposed changes

Remote Learning and Related Services

Guidance from the U.S. Department of Education and the Iowa Department of Education confirm the rights of students with disabilities to receive special education and related services as required under the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) during the COVID-19 pandemic.

During the COVID-19 Crisis, many districts in Iowa have allowed parents to choose the learning model that is best for their child and family.

“We now go to the full concept of IDEA and the concepts of FAPE so we should be talking about three things: Access, Participation and Making progress. Those are the responsibilities of districts, of schools and of IEP teams.”

Dr. Barbara Guy, Iowa Department of Education

“IEP team decision making still must be progress directed, child focused and individualized.”

Thomas Mayes, Iowa Department of Education

Regardless of the learning setting IEP teams must provide a Free and Appropriate Public Education to students eligible under IDEA.

[More information about FAPE](#)

Consent and Waiver Forms

School districts can not require a parent to sign a waiver of child’s rights to a Free and Appropriate Public Education in the Least Restrictive Environment during the COVID-19 Crisis.

Services to Students: Page I of the IEP

During the COVID-19 Crisis, districts in Iowa have been directed to complete Page I of the IEP to document how supports and services from the IEP will be implemented for an individual receiving special education services in a remote or hybrid learning model. It is expected that page I will be completed by the annual review date or before, however, a parent may also request an IEP meeting to complete page I if it has not yet been done.

[Sample Additional Information Page \(Page I\) of the IEP](#)

Recovery Services

In the state of Iowa, COVID-19 Recovery Services should be discussed as a possibility for eligible individuals.

- Recovery Services determined by an IEP/IFSP team should be designed to address skills and content that was not taught, as well as, the compounding effects of those skills not being taught due to closures related to COVID-19.
- It is important to note that Extended School Year Services are different from COVID-19 Recovery Services.
- Recovery services may be provided at any time up to one year after the end of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Recovery Services are to be provided in addition to supports and services identified in an eligible individual's IEP or IFSP.

The Iowa Department of Education has made available to families and educators a collection of resources about educational services during this critical time.

This resource provides a visual chart explaining what should be considered when determining Recovery Services.

[Considerations for Recovery Services](#)

In the following document representatives from the Iowa Department of Education answer frequently asked questions about Recovery Services.

[COVID-19 Recovery Services for Learners Receiving IDEA Services Frequently Asked Questions from the Iowa Department of Education](#)

For more information about Return to Learn in Iowa visit www.askresource.org