

Special Education and Distance Learning

Parent-recommended policy ideas for state and district leaders



Create system-wide understanding of what special education instruction and services can be provided during closures, how they will be delivered, to whom and when.



Encourage collaboration among a student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) team to translate plan goals and accommodations to a distance learning environment.



Establish regular, clear communication with parents and families, including information on the tools and resources available to the student and his or her family.



Carefully select and deploy online learning technology that best supports each student and their IEP goals and accommodations.



Focus on mastery of concepts and skills by ensuring assignments, worksheets and lesson plans are customized to the student's academic and IEP goals.



Allow educators to retrieve classroom items needed to enhance their instruction and distribute assistive technology and other hands-on or sensory materials to students.



Plan for assessing students after schools re-open, to get a clear understanding of instructional loss or progression.



Ensure all educators have robust training in distance learning, including strategies for teaching students with disabilities.



Conduct an audit to determine which special education services can be effectively delivered remotely, and create a plan maximizing these resources and innovative partnerships.

Read the full resource guide at www.excelined.org/covid19/spedresourceguide