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