



UPDATES FOR FAMILIES— LEARNING AT HOME

APRIL 2, 2020
12:00 PM AND 7:00 PM

Interact with us - Guidelines

- If you have a question that you would like answered, type it into the “Question” pane.
 - We will respond during the webinar any quick or logistical questions
 - For complex questions, we will follow-up via email to provide answers
 - We may have to reach out and get answers from partners
- If you have information or resources you want to share with everyone, type them into the “chat” box and chat to everyone
- We will also periodically be asking you to respond to polls during the webinar
- Let’s start with a couple of quick polls to see who has joined us



Participants will be able to:



- Discuss PDE Guidance to schools about special education during this time
- List strategies for setting priorities for learning at home
- Discuss “what’s working” for families and students
- List key updates related to health care
- Get answers to some of their questions and concerns



PDE Guidance to Schools

Reminders about important special education guidance



During this Indefinite School Closure

We strongly recommend that schools and families prioritize these things in this order:

1. Safety, health and welfare
2. Delivering FAPE and special education services while communicating with families
3. Documentation
4. Compliance

Continuity of Education Plans

- BSE provided guidance to IUs to share with LEAs
- BSE is recording a webinar to reach:
 - Alternative Education for Disruptive Youth (AEDY) programs
 - Approved Private Schools
 - Charter and Cyber Charter
 - Private Licensed Academies
 - Parochial Schools



In Development by PDE

- Equity Grants
- Graduation Guidance
- Attendance Guidance
- Information about how all services provided in “brick and mortar” schools can be provided during this time, including:
 - Student Assistance Program
 - School Based Mental Health
 - Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports
 - Social Work

Options to Communicate Notice

- Revise or Amend IEPs
- Provide Prior Written Notice (NOREP)
- Send a letter



Recommended Guidance

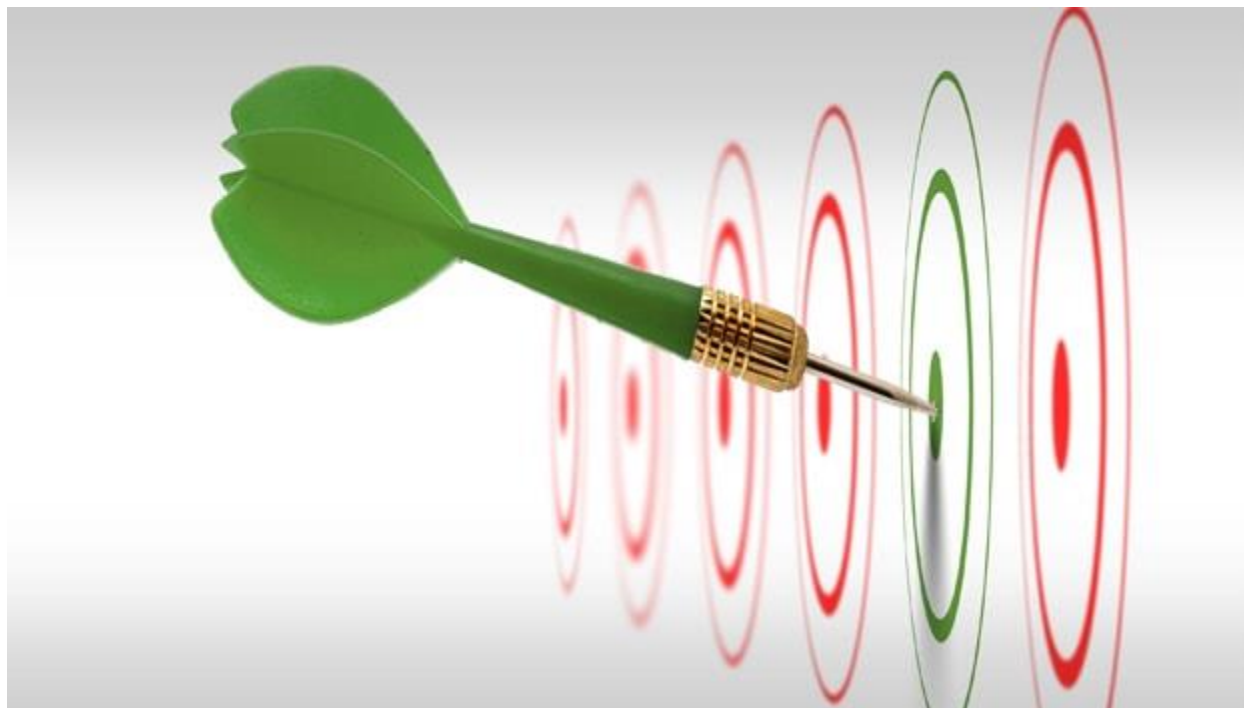
1. Review all IEPs
2. Call or video chat with families
3. Make decisions individually
4. Do not make changes in placement
5. Focus on:
 - a. Specially Designed Instruction (SDI)
 - b. Transition Services
 - c. Related Services
6. Annual IEP meetings should be held

NOREP Language

- May not enable full implementation of FAPE as described in current IEP
- Best efforts to meet needs during school closure
- Interim plan
- Program and placement in current IEP will resume
- Child may be entitled to compensatory education when school resumes



How to Prioritize



Where do I start?

- It is ok if you are feeling overwhelmed – that is normal!
- 3 main things for caregivers to remember
 - You are *facilitating* the instruction, not *responsible* for it
 - You need to read the goals and SDIs in the IEP
 - You need to understand why it's important to try

Planning and Preparation

- This is a “new normal”!
- Develop a schedule Monday thru Friday, just like if the student were going to school. This will help get your child prepared to learn.
 - Wake up at a specific time & follow a morning routine
 - Eat breakfast, brush teeth and get dressed (sweats count, but do PJs?)
 - Set up a space for learning conducive to the child’s needs
 - Stay active - important for mental health as well as physical health

Enrichment vs. Planned Instruction

- **Enrichment:** providing virtual and/or print resources to review and practice learned skills
- **Planned instruction** – which is similar to what typically occurs in schools using distance technology – teachers leading instruction, grading work and students earning credits



School Work

- Have a conversation with the school and/or teachers
- Understand expectations and be realistic about what you can do
 - What does the school expect of the caregiver; is it reasonable?
- Does the material work for you and the student?
 - Is it better in hard copy or online or some mix of both?
- Is any planned instruction of NEW content focused on the **essential** learning points?
- You are *facilitating* the instruction, not *responsible* for it

Ready, Set, Try!

- Look at the school's expectation for each subject and service ONE at a time
- Prioritize
 - Reading the IEP goals is great place to start
 - Goals will focus on the greatest areas of need
- Give this a good faith effort
 - Give things at least a week or ten days to see if you can make it work, identify problems, and work with the school to find solutions
 - Reading the Specially Designed Instructions (SDIs) in the IEP should have ideas for you to help your student
- Take notes about what is working, not working and the solutions offered



Advocate for Yourself

- **What if?**
 - You are not able/available to assist your child
 - Your child's physical/mental/behavioral health is interfering
 - Support at home is not available
- Communicate with the school -- Ask for options and help!
- Focus on what you can do. There are a whole range of possibilities. You might be surprised and this could work out for everyone. It's not going to be perfect and, that too, is okay.

Important Reminders

Actions you should take during this school closure that will be beneficial when your child returns to school when children are back to school:

- Trying what was offered
- Communicate your challenges
- Attempt to work collaboratively with the school team
- Monitor progress



What's Working??

Strategies that PA schools are using that are working for families

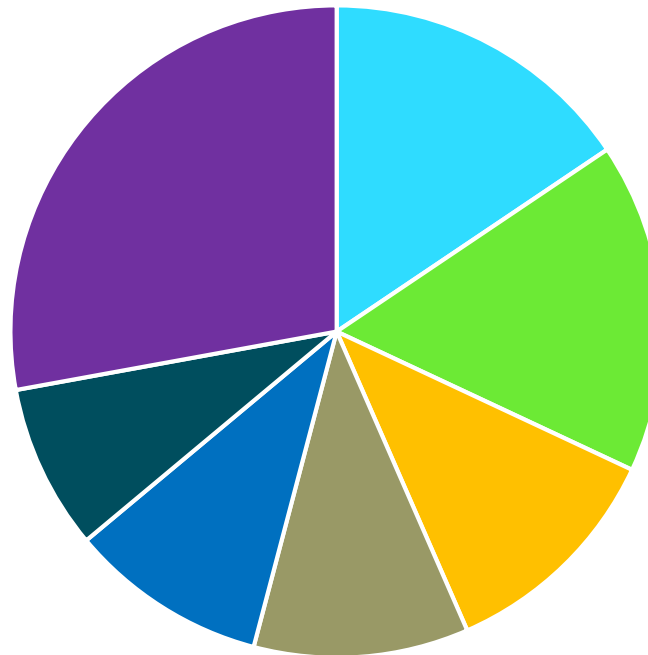


Themes from Survey

- Districts just starting or still working on delivery of services to students
- Internet service needed and SD working on hot spots
- Answers to some parent questions slow or not provided
- Weekly checklist of assignments being sent to everyone
- Changing social skill goal to delivering it virtually
- No video or phone calls allowed by SD so far

What's working for you?

Percent of Responses



■ Multiple Modes of Communication

■ Individual Supports

■ IEP Team meetings

■ Nothing

■ Clear Concise Messaging

■ Surveying Needs

■ Amending IEPs



Health Care

Reminders and Updates



Healthcare Priorities

Health & Safety is first

- Wash your hands
- Don't touch your face
- Cough into your elbow
- Get supplies/groceries only when necessary
- Practice physical distancing – 6 Feet apart!!
- If you are sick, stay home

Healthcare Considerations

- If you have symptoms, contact your PCP and get tested.
- Use 911 only in a true emergency
- Focus on health if you are sick or caring for someone who is sick
- Remember mental health needs are as important as physical health needs.
 - 1 in 5 individuals struggles with mental health
 - Find ways to cope effectively with stress, continue to follow treatment guidelines and participate in remote therapy.

Service Delivery Changes in PA

- Medicaid (MA) has temporarily approved Telehealth for physical, behavior and mental health services
 - Not all private insurers approve Telehealth
- MA authorized early refills of prescriptions and larger supplies
- Dental Services – urgent and emergency procedures permitted
- ODP Waivers



Future Health



- If Medical Assistance is denied or reduced, contact PA Health Law Project right away
- Appeals within 10 days assure that services continue



Questions and Answers



Resources

- [PaTTAN COVID-19 resources](#)
- [DHS searchable childcare centers for essential workers](#)
- [PA Department of Health Healthcare Graphics](#)
- [If you have COVID](#)
- [CDC Stress and Coping](#)
- [My ODP](#)
- [Upcoming Webinar- Feeling Safe and Supported While Learning at Home: Trauma-Sensitive Practices During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)

Next Week's Webinar

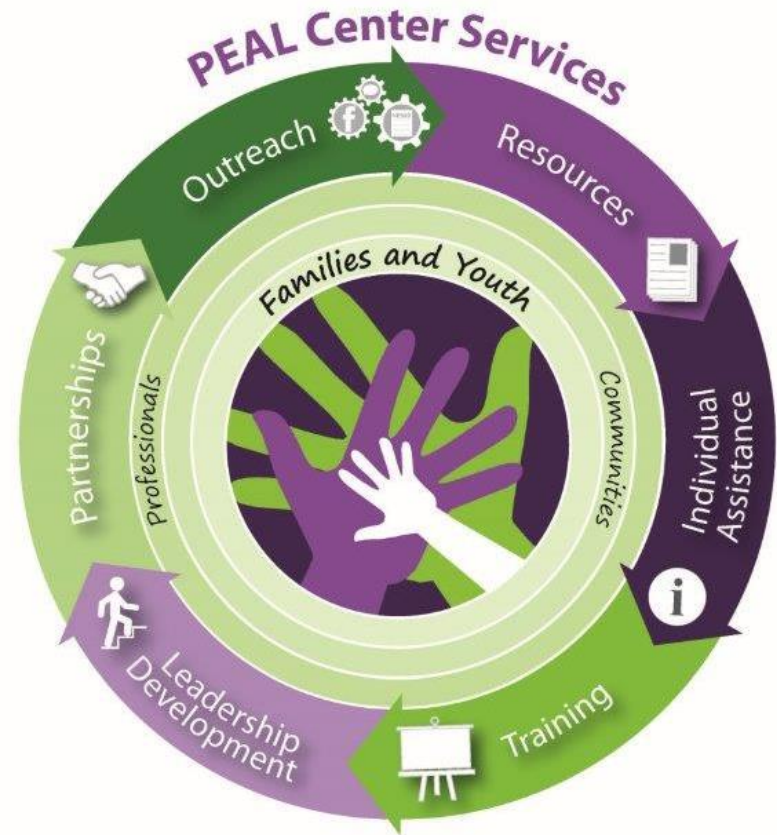
- Join us Tuesday April 7, 2020 at 12:00 and 7:00 pm
- The Big Three Accessibility Features across Platforms, presented by Scott Dougherty
- Learn about:
 - Text-to-Speech
 - Speech-to-Text
 - Document Annotation
- Register at <http://bit.ly/PEALA7webinar>



Thank You!



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Serving families across PA
with offices in Pittsburgh and Philadelphia