



## FAQs for Iowa Families and Parents of Students with Disabilities receiving Special Education, or Parents of Children receiving Early Intervention

### Introduction

This FAQ answers basic questions that families and parents of students receiving special education may have regarding the effect of the COVID-19 outbreak. Communication and collaboration between families and schools is always important, but that need is intensified during this health emergency and rapidly changing situation. More detailed [guidance](#) can be found on the Department's website.

### Ages 0-3

What will happen to my child's services when the AEA or Child Health Specialty Clinic is closed due to COVID-19?

If the AEA or CHSC is closed, then Part C/Early ACCESS services would not need to be provided to infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families during that period of time.

What will happen to my child's services when the AEA or Child Health Specialty Clinic office is closed, but early intervention services continue to be provided to children and families?

If the AEA or CHSC offices are closed and early intervention staff are working from home, you will be contacted to talk about holding meetings remotely and use video home visits if this setting is convenient for you.

What will happen if I choose to stop services temporarily?

If you want to stop services until the COVID-19 outbreak is no longer a threat to your child and family, talk to your service coordinator. Once services begin again, your IFSP team will work with you to determine if an evaluation or assessment is needed to update information on your child's development and take appropriate next steps.

### Ages 3-21

What will happen to my child's services when school is canceled for all students due to COVID-19?

If a school closure causes educational services for all students to stop, the district is not required to provide services to students receiving special education services during that same time period.

If a school provides materials or activities for students and families to use if they wish, the school must provide a range of materials or activities so that any student in the school, including students with disabilities, have something their child can use.

If annual IEP reviews are due during the school closure, please work closely with the school to meet through alternate means such as video or audio conference calls, or to meet in a timely manner when school is back in session.

## What will happen to my child's services when a school is closed but educational services continue to be provided to all students?

If a district has extended school closures but continues to provide educational services to all students, such as online learning, the district remains responsible to provide a free appropriate public education (FAPE) to students receiving special education. IEP teams may need to adjust special education or related services but should work to ensure students with IEPs receive services comparable to those received by all other students.

## What will happen to my child's services if school remains open but my child is sick and stays home?

If a child receiving special education services is absent for more than 10 days and the school remains open, the IEP team must determine if the child is available for instruction and could benefit from homebound services such as online instruction or some other type of learning adapted to the student's needs and location.

## What will happen for my child who was set to graduate this spring?

Districts have local discretion to determine whether students have sufficiently met graduation requirements. The Iowa Department of Education recommends that districts provide as much latitude as possible for students affected by school closure, illness, family illness, or related COVID-19 issues to graduate on time.

## What will happen to my child's services when school resumes?

Your child may be eligible for services to "make up" for the services your child may have missed that were essential for FAPE during the time of the closure. This does not mean your child will automatically receive "make up" services just because the school was closed. The IEP team must meet to decide if your child is eligible for "make up" services. If your child is eligible, then the IEP team must determine what type of services and how much is needed for your child to "make up" what was missed. More detailed information will be provided by the Department at a later date.