



COVID-19 School Closures & Students with Disabilities

This resource was last updated on April 15, 2020. Some information may have changed.

- 1. Your Child Has a Right to a Temporary Learning Plan:** Schools should contact you to create a plan for your child's learning while schools are closed. This plan should be based on your child's IEP or 504 plan.
- 2. You Have a Right to an IEP Meeting:** You should meet as an IEP or 504 team, by phone or computer, to work on a learning plan for your child. This meeting decides how your child will receive services or what new services your child needs for learning while schools are closed. If some services cannot be provided at home, the team can decide that your child will get additional services when school reopens to make up for lost learning. These services are called "compensatory education."
- 3. You Have a Right to Written Notice:** After the meeting, you should get a written Notice of Recommended Educational Placement (NOREP) that describes your child's new learning plan. It should explain that this learning plan is only for while schools are closed. When school reopens, your child's services will follow the plan in place before schools closed in March.
- 4. You Have a Right to Disagree:** If you disagree with the temporary plan, you should tell the school about your concerns. You can request a new meeting, mediation, or a due process hearing. You can also send a complaint to the state. Your school should not ask you to waive or give up your right to a free, appropriate public education in order to receive services now.
- 5. Your Child May Have a Right to Compensatory Education:** Once schools reopen, you should meet with the IEP or 504 team to decide whether your child should receive compensatory education. These are services to make up for supports your child did not receive while schools were closed.

The Education Law Center-PA (ELC) is a nonprofit, legal advocacy organization with offices in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, dedicated to ensuring that all children in Pennsylvania have access to a quality public education.

ELC's publications provide a general statement of the law. However, each situation is different, and state and federal guidance on these topics continues to change.

If you have questions or concerns, please call our Helpline at 215-238-6970 (Eastern and Central PA) or 412-258-2120 (Western PA).