Office of
Student Support Services
Exceptional Support Branch

SEAC Meeting
Friday, August 10, 2021
Guidance on Students with Disabilities
Office of Special Education Programs

“...the Department expects that all LEAs will provide every student with the opportunity for full-time, in-person learning for the 2021–2022 school year. The Department recognizes that some parents may have specific health and safety concerns about sending their children back to in-person instruction because of the perceived health risk to the student’s immediate family and to other household members …

Therefore, reopening schools safely is of utmost importance. SEAs and LEAs should put in place layered prevention strategies including promoting vaccination and universal and correct mask-wearing in schools. 2 ED COVID-19 Handbook… “

(OSEP August 24, 2021 letter to its state and local partners)
A meeting shall be scheduled with the parent/guardian to discuss concerns and look at:

a. **EL, IEP, 504**: If the student has been identified as EL, or has an IEP/504 plan, then a meeting will be arranged with the school team to discuss if the student learning plan/IEP can be provided in a distance learning program including social and emotional learning needs.

b. **General Education**: Evaluate a student’s past performance (academic, social, emotional) in distance learning using available data such as attendance, formative assessments, grades, report card GLO marks or comments, Panorama SEL survey, and teacher observation. A student is a likely candidate if past performance has shown they can be successful in a distance learning environment.”

[HIDOE State Distance Learning Program for School Year 2021-22; Distance Learning for SY 21-22 Guidance Update]  
Distance Learning and Implementation of IEPs and 504 Plans Memo
Contingency Planning

Distance Learning and Implementation of IEPs and 504 Plans Memo
“...if there is a significant school disruption (e.g., pandemic, flooding, volcanic activity, etc.), and therefore students may need to participate in distance learning during such closure. If this is the case and the school cannot implement the IEP/Section 504 Plan in its entirety because the campus is closed due to a significant school disruption, the school team must work with the parent(s)/legal guardian(s) to develop a School Closure Contingency Plan to implement the IEP/Section 504 Plan to the greatest extent possible.”

- Contingency plan is not required legal mandate
- Outlines what can be provided via distance learning (need not be virtual)
- Schools were advised at the reopening of last school year to develop
- Applicable during school disruptions
Addressing Learning Loss

- Supersedes July 31, 2020 memo
- Addressing learning loss is ongoing now
- Learning loss is defined as:
  - defined as educational loss
  - skill loss
  - lack of expected progress
- any new needs
- Reminder of OSEPs requirement on individual decision making
- Progress monitoring process to identify learning loss
- Conducting IEP meetings to address learning loss

[Addressing the Needs of Students with Disabilities  4.30.21](#)
THANK YOU