

Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC)

Statement on Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Pre-K-12+ Programing (IDEA Part B)

Local Education Agencies (LEAs) in Washington State have been mandated to close for a minimum of six (6) weeks to combat the novel coronavirus, COVID-19. LEAs have been making contingency plans to continue to provide education for students during the closure.

If an LEA offers general education services remotely and/or online, services must be equitably offered to all students. Students without access to technology, English learners, students experiencing homelessness, students in foster care, students who require access to child nutrition programs, students receiving special education services, and other students who experience opportunity gaps must have equitable access to the services needed in order for them to access their learning outside of school.

The SEAC advises LEAs to work with their families, community, Educational Service Districts, and the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction to consider ways remote delivery options can meet the conditions of equitable access for all students.

The SEAC acknowledges the great deal of uncertainty extended closures has on all stakeholders. This includes students, families, schools, community partners and all those who deeply care about the education and well-being of students in Washington State. In these unprecedented times and rapidly changing circumstances, we encourage patience on the part of stakeholders and sustained efforts for ongoing communication by LEAs to families and community partners as they work to develop contingency plans to serve all students. We believe that by only working together we will be able to ensure equitable access for all students and we will emerge from this situation with stronger relationships and new ideas for innovation and collaboration.

Nondiscrimination

The SEAC would also like to reiterate OSPI's assertion that COVID-19 and school closures are not connected to a race, ethnicity, nationality, disability or any other protected class status. Any harassment, intimidation or bullying of students based on actual or perceived protected class status may be in violation of the state and federal civil rights laws. If parents or families believe their child has experienced harassment, intimidation or bullying related to the COVID-19 outbreak, they should contact their [LEA's civil rights coordinator](#).



Additional Information and Resources:

Council of Administrators of Special Education

- [Novel Coronavirus 2019: Considerations for Special Education Administrators](#)

Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates

- [COPAA Statement on Student Rights Under IDEA During the COVID-19 Outbreak](#)

OSPI Guidance and Updates

- [Novel Coronavirus \(COVID 19\) Guidance & Resources](#): This site is updated frequently and includes a list of school closures.
- [Novel Coronavirus \(COVID 19\) in K-12 Schools: A Parent Guide](#)

Special Education Technology Center (SETC)

- [Equitable Online Learning Through the Lens of Student Needs](#): Considerations for school districts implementing online learning for all students during the COVID-19 state of emergency.
- [Equitable Online Learning through the Lens of Student Needs—Resources and Links](#): This list is a companion to the document “Equitable Online Learning Through the Lens of Student Needs.” The following list includes online learning supports that have been shared by districts across Washington state.

US Department of Education:

[COVID-19 \("Coronavirus"\) Information and Resources for Schools and School Personnel](#): Includes information regarding the rights of students with disabilities

Washington State:

[Coronavirus COVID-19 Response webpage](#) : Includes resources for families, workers, businesses, statistics, emergency information and more.

Other Resources:

OSP–Special Education–SEAC:

<http://www.k12.wa.us/SpecialEd/SEAC/default.aspx>

SEAC Email:

SEAC@k12.wa.us

OSPI–Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/waOSPI>

OSPI–Twitter:

<https://twitter.com/waOSPI>

OSPI-Special Education: 360-725-6075



Washington Office of Superintendent of
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION