

*Date:* February 2021

*To:* District Administrators, CESA Administrators, CCDEB Administrators, Directors of Special Education and Pupil Services, and Other Interested Parties

*From:* Department of Public Instruction's Division for Learning Support, Department of Workforce Development's Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, and the Department of Health Services

*Subject:* Special Education Transition Requirements During COVID-19

The purpose of this email is to update you on special education transition requirements as you respond to COVID-19.

Regardless of the method of instruction (e.g., in person, hybrid, distance), the special education requirements under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and Chapter 115 of the Wisconsin Statutes remain in effect. School districts must continue to provide a free, appropriate public education (FAPE) to each student with an individualized education program (IEP). For students ages 14 and above, this includes a Postsecondary Transition Plan (PTP) that includes goals in education/training, employment, and, when applicable, independent living. In addition to these goals, the PTP must also include transition services and a robust course of study that will enable the student to meet their postsecondary goals.

Districts may be unable to provide these services, either because of a health order or because it was determined that it was unsafe to do so through consultation with the local, county, or municipal health departments. In this case, districts must determine and provide compensatory education to these students when in-person instruction and services become available. This consideration must also be made for students graduating with a regular high school diploma or who have reached maximum age. The department has developed a [question and answer document](#) that addresses special education requirements during this public health emergency, as well as a [bulletin](#) on determining additional services.

An integral part of the transition process is interagency collaboration. School districts are required to invite at least one representative from an outside agency to all IEP meetings in which postsecondary goals and transition services will be discussed. The department and its transition partners around the state recognize the challenges school districts have faced this school year in providing transition services while also keeping students and staff safe. Below you will find key resources for supporting the transition for students with IEPs during this time. Please do not hesitate to reach out to this department or our state agency partners, the Department of Workforce Development's Division of

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Vocational Rehabilitation and the Department of Health Services, if we can assist your team in supporting the successful transition of students with IEPs from school to adulthood this year.

**Key Resources/Contact(s) for Transition:**

- [Transition Improvement Grant](#)
- [Supporting Transition for Youth Using Online Platforms](#)
- [DPI COVID-19 Special Education Updates and Resources](#)
- [DVR Transition Services](#)
- [COVID-19; Schools and Child Care](#)

If you have any questions, contact Alicia Reinhard at [alicia.reinhard@dpi.wi.gov](mailto:alicia.reinhard@dpi.wi.gov).