

# Compensatory Services Decisions for Students Exiting in the 2020-2021 School Year

Special Education Team

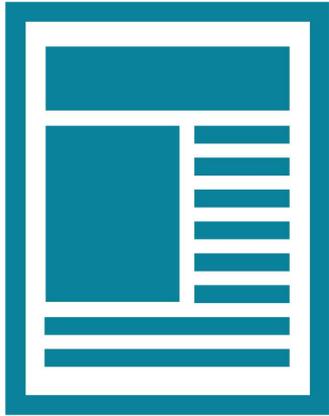
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WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

Carolyn Stanford Taylor, State Superintendent

# COVID-19 and Compensatory Services



- On February 5, 2021 the DPI and partners at DHS and DWD-DVR released a [joint memo](#) on the responsibility of school districts to provide transition services during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- On March 25, 2021, the Special Education Team released [guidance on compensatory services determinations](#) for students exiting in the 20-21 school year.



# COVID-19 and Compensatory Services

- The COVID-19 pandemic has created barriers for some students with IEPs to accessing transition services and or making progress in IEP goals.
- IEP teams need to determine whether compensatory or recovery services are required for these students.
- IEP teams should consider:
  - Progress towards annual IEP goals
  - Postsecondary transition goals in the areas of education/training, employment, and independent living
  - Successful transition to supports and services in postsecondary environments



# What are compensatory services?

Additional Services	Extended School Year	Compensatory Services
<p><b>Services provided as a result of the extended school closure in the 2019-2020 school year.</b></p> <p>These determinations were made in the first six months of the 2020-2021 school year.</p>	<p><b>Special education and related services provided pursuant to an IEP beyond the limits of the school term are ESY services.</b></p> <p>For some students these services are provided during the transition from high school to postsecondary environments.</p>	<p><b>Services designed to address any lack of expected progress due to the effects of the pandemic.</b></p> <p>These services can be provided after a student receives a regular high school diploma or exits due to maximum age.</p>

# Funding Options

- Compensatory or recovery services are allowable expenses for state categorical aid and Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part B flow-through grants.
- Federal Stimulus Funds may also be used.
- See information on the use of [CRRSA funds](#).



# Making Compensatory Considerations

## IEP teams should...

- Gather student and family input
- Consider how and when compensatory services will be provided with family input
- Consider student progress and what is needed for a successful transition
- Collaborate on an individualized plan for services to supplement the student's needs and goals
- Document the services in the program summary

## IEP teams should NOT...

- Make predeterminations based on a student's primary disability
- Preclude a student from compensatory services based on availability
- Offer pre-set amount of services not based on an individualized determination
- Replicate all services and supports to supplant the current IEP
- Deny services due to earning a regular HS diploma or reaching maximum age

# Discussion Questions for IEP Teams

As a result of the pandemic:

- Did the student fail to make progress?
- Has the student received planned transition services in order to prepare for postsecondary goals in education or training, employment, and when applicable, independent living?
- Is the student connected to supports and services that will facilitate a smooth transition to postsecondary environments?



# Discussion Questions Continued

As a result of the pandemic:

- What services and supports would help the student make progress?
- To what extent is the student and family willing to participate in compensatory services?



# Additional Support and Resources

For additional questions, contact:

[Local Regional Special Education  
Network Director](#)

[Regional Transition Improvement  
Grant Coordinator](#)

[WI DPI Special Education Team](#)

Resources:

[COVID-19 Special Education  
Question and Answer Document](#)

[Additional Services Bulletin](#)

[What Families Need to Know  
About Additional Services](#)

[COVID Response and Relief  
Planning Recommendations](#)



# References

Nissman, Cara. 2021. “Dos and don’ts for providing recovery postsecondary transition services.” Accessed March 25, 2021. <https://www.specialedconnection.com>.

Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, Special Education Team. 2021. “COVID-19 Special Education Question and Answer Document.” Accessed April 1, 2021. [https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/sped/pdf/Extended\\_School\\_Closure\\_due\\_to\\_COVID.pdf](https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/sped/pdf/Extended_School_Closure_due_to_COVID.pdf).

Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, Division of Learning Support. 2021. “Considerations For Students Who Will Be Graduating With a Regular High School Diploma or Reached the Age of 21 During the 2020-21 School Year.” Accessed March 31, 2021. <https://dpi.wi.gov/sped/considerations-students-who-will-be-graduating-regular-high-school-diploma-or-reached-age-21>.

