

#6 Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Educators and Coronavirus/COVID-19 – IEPs and Special Ed educators

Have we heard any information about how school closures will impact IEP and re-evaluation meetings that are due? I have heard some talk that special ed teachers may actually have to have those meetings via phone conference. Is that true or do we know anything?

Under recent guidance developed by TDOE, it is possible. [Guidance from TDOE](#) regarding IEP re-evaluations places responsibility on the school district to obtain parental consent regarding annual IEP re-evaluations. While the TDOE guidance discusses the ability of a parent to waive in person meetings in favor of video-conferencing, the guidance does not discuss whether or not a District is required to have video conferenced meetings. Below is the excerpt from TDOE guidance on March 18, 2020.

IEP Reviews

The IDEA requires that the child's IEP be reviewed periodically, but not less than annually, to determine whether the annual goals for the child are being achieved; and revise the IEP, as appropriate. There is some flexibility in this provision. For example, in making changes to a child's IEP after the annual IEP Team meeting for a school year, the parent of a child with a disability and the public agency may agree not to convene an IEP Team meeting for the purposes of making those changes, and instead may develop a written document to amend or modify the child's current IEP. In addition, when conducting IEP Team meetings and placement meetings, the parent of a child with a disability and a public agency may agree to use alternative means of meeting participation requirements, such as video conferences and conference calls. These decisions must include the child's parent or guardian and meaningfully work towards ensuring that each child receives an IEP review commensurate with the intent of the law, and in the best interest of the child. Districts and schools are strongly encouraged to document decisions related to these re-evaluation timelines and maintain that decision-making rationale in the student's file.

[Click here](#) for guidance provided by the US Department of Education.