

Compensatory Services & COVID-19 School Closures



What are compensatory services?

Compensatory services are used to help students make up for **progress or skills they lost when their special education services were not provided.**

Who decides if compensatory services are needed?

Admission, Review, and Dismissal (ARD) committees decide if compensatory services are needed and what those services will be. Parent or guardian participation in ARD meetings is very important.



The information below will help you to be ready to work with the rest of the ARD committee to make good decisions about compensatory services for your child.



Decisions about compensatory services have to be made for your child as an individual. Schools cannot have a one size fits all plan for how they will provide compensatory services.

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If your child was in the process of being evaluated for special education and the evaluation was delayed because of school closures, if your child is later found eligible for special education, the ARD committee should consider compensatory services.



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Did the at home learning opportunities provided by your school work well for your child?

- Be ready to talk about what worked and what didn't.
- Do you have ideas that might help your child if at home learning has to continue for a longer period of time?

Where are your child's current skills compared to his or her annual IEP goals? Be prepared to talk through whatever information you have been able to collect about your child's progress during at home learning.

- If your child hasn't made the kind of progress that they usually would because of school closures and at home learning, then compensatory services should be considered.



What services do you think your child needs?

- If compensatory services are needed, think carefully about how those services could be added to your child's day. It's very important to have high expectations for your child's learning but at the same time to be careful to not overwhelm your child by adding in too much at one time and causing problems in another area.

Providing compensatory services doesn't necessarily mean that every minute of service that wasn't provided needs to be made up. For example, if your child missed ten, 30-minute occupational therapy sessions (300 total minutes), it might not make sense to add all of those minutes into your child's day once normal school operations resume. Try to think more about how to reduce the impact of missing those services rather than simply making up for minutes that weren't provided.