

TOP 10 TIPS

How to Navigate Special Education During COVID-19

1. **ASSUME EVERYONE IS DOING THEIR BEST!** This is an unimaginable situation that is no one's fault.
2. Families and schools need to **WORK TOGETHER** to provide the materials, instruction and support the student needs.
3. **ALL STUDENTS WILL LIKELY HAVE SOME REGRESSION.** When students return to school, the IEP Team (this includes you, the parent) will assess and make decisions how to best address it.
4. Schools are going to try to make adjustments to meet each student's needs. This should be a decision you discuss with members of your child's team.
5. All of us need to be **FLEXIBLE** and **CREATIVE**. Try something, it might just work! Remember **PRESUME COMPETENCE!**
6. Think of what your child needs the most and advocate for that. **BE OPEN** that services will be delivered in different ways and may be less often.
7. Families need to be **HONEST and DIRECT**. If you are asked to do something and you need help or supplies, tell your child's teacher.
8. IEP changes (amendments) should indicate that they are for "interim services." Request that the IEP include a statement that the IEP return to the previous IEP when you return to school.
9. **THINGS ARE CHANGING RAPIDLY!** We may possibly see further changes, updates and/or guidance. We will need to be flexible.
10. Remember that at the end of the day, education may not be the most important issue in your home or for your child. Take care of your family's physical, mental, and emotional needs.

PPMD will keep our webpage and Facebook page updated. Take care of yourself and your family!

Source

➤ Adapted from PEAL Center Top Ten Tips 2020