



DISABILITY RIGHTS
CENTER - NH



Parents who have concerns about their child's access to special education services, including a meaningful transition process, can contact DRC-NH to speak with an attorney free of charge.

Special Education & COVID-19

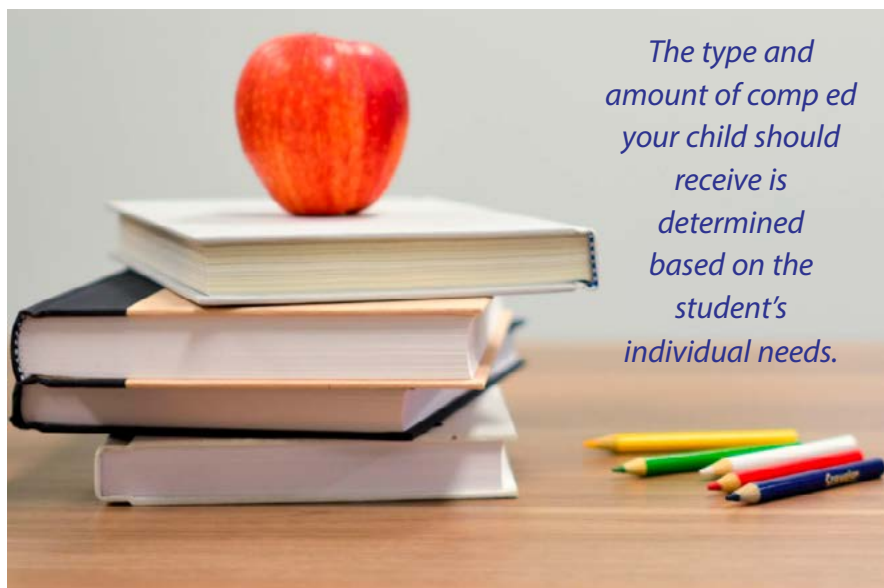


Your Child's Special Education Rights Remain in Place Despite the Pandemic

State and federal special education laws like the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) do not contain exceptions for unforeseen circumstances like the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, COVID-19 has not excused school districts from delivering the services required in a student's individualized education program (IEP). Nor have school districts been permitted to change IEPs to accommodate school closures, if those changes do not benefit students.

Compensatory Education (Comp Ed)

When a student with a disability has not received a free appropriate public education (FAPE), the school district may be required to provide the student with compensatory education services or "comp ed." The purpose of comp ed services is to place the student in the same position they would have been in had the student received a FAPE.



The type and amount of comp ed your child should receive is determined based on the student's individual needs.

Just like all special education services, the type and amount of comp ed your child should receive is determined based on the student's individual needs. School Districts and parents should work together to determine whether students require comp ed and what compensatory services are needed as a result of school closures and remote learning. Even if schools have been closed or are only teaching remotely, comp ed should be considered to make up required services and educational opportunities missed by students with IEPs.

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Disability Rights Center - New Hampshire (DRC-NH) is dedicated to the full and equal enjoyment of civil and other legal rights by people with disabilities.

DRC-NH is New Hampshire's designated Protection and Advocacy agency and authorized by federal statute "to pursue legal, administrative, and other appropriate remedies" on behalf of individuals with disabilities. We are a statewide organization independent from state government or service providers.

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Besides special education and related services, missed education opportunities may include direct instruction in core academics, like language arts and science, as well as opportunities to make progress in annual IEP goals, such as forming relationships with peers. If your student requires compensatory education services, request an IEP team meeting to discuss what services, instruction, or other educational opportunities your student requires to receive a FAPE. The school district should provide a written decision in response to your request (called a written prior notice). If you disagree with the decision, you have options like filing a complaint. You can learn more about these options at drcnh.org/issue-areas/childrens-issues/education/special-education.



Disability Rights Center - NH

Protection and Advocacy System for New Hampshire

64 North Main Street, Suite 2
3rd Floor, Concord, NH 03301-4913

MISSION: The Disability Rights Center is dedicated to eliminating barriers to the full and equal enjoyment of civil and other legal rights for people with disabilities.

twitter.com/DRCNH

facebook.com/DisabilityRightsCenterNH

WEBSITE: www.drcnh.org

EMAIL: mail@drcnh.org

VOICE AND TDD: (603) 228-0432
1-800-834-1721

FAX: (603) 225-2077

TDD access also through NH Relay Service

VOICE AND TDD: 1-800-735-2964

Hours: Monday-Friday 8:30am-12:00pm and 1:00pm-4:30pm
Information in alternate formats provided upon request.

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