

Compensatory Services Decisions for Students Exiting in the 2021-2022 School Year

Special Education Team

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WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF
Public Instruction
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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.
- COVID-19 continues to impact transition services for students with disabilities.

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>Services provided as a result of the extended school closure in the 2019-2020 school year.</p> <p>These determinations were made in the first six months of the 2020-2021 school year.</p>	<p>Special education and related services provided pursuant to an IEP beyond the limits of the school term are ESY services.</p> <p>For some students these services are provided during the transition from high school to postsecondary environments.</p>	<p>Services designed to address any lack of expected progress due to the effects of the pandemic.</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?**
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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?**
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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.

