Good afternoon everyone,

Last week we learned that Betsy Devos was not making any recommendations to waive any of the requirements of IDEA during the COVID-19 Pandemic.  The next step for these recommendations is that they will go before Congress for review. Members of the Council of Administrators in Special Education (CASE) and other technical assistance centers are speaking to legislators about how this might impact districts in their federal reporting requirements.

There are two legislators who are working on creating flexibility in these reporting requirements. Senator Cassidy, R-Louisiana and Senator Murphy, D-Connecticut have proposed a bill which provides *narrow, temporary and targeted flexibilities*. This legislation has five tenets:

1. Preserve the right to FAPE and support creative ways to make up for missed opportunities
2. Engage parents and ensure due process
3. Continue to maintain oversight of IDEA by congress
4. Communicate in a clear manner and provide technical assistance to states and districts to support students with disabilities
5. Provide funding to states and school districts to support these efforts.

This information was obtained by the [CASE webinar](https://nam03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fcec.sped.org%2FCOVID19forAdministrators&data=02%7C01%7CColene.ONeill%40maine.gov%7Ce227a8d66fdb4ecb5d4908d7f08a1526%7C413fa8ab207d4b629bcdea1a8f2f864e%7C0%7C0%7C637242348164543411&sdata=1gk9GoQOKZtKryS9P5P2qthrQf4CGL3%2BO8v6PKgqjqs%3D&reserved=0) presentation on May 1, 2020.

On tomorrow’s webinar, we will present specific guidance when considering COVID Impact Services and distinguish these services from ESY.

Look forward to seeing you tomorrow!

Erin