

School Psychology 04.09.20

Today's guidance recaps our Zoom meeting today on the topic of school psychology. Dr. Heather Blier, owner and supervising psychologist at Dirigo Consulting, will be volunteering to support the DOE in creating a FAQ document and a toolkit for providers. We will be developing this as a new item under our COVID-19 support page "Administrators" tab.

Please continue to send school psychology related questions to Colene O'Neill at colene.oneill@maine.gov. Guidance on IEP meetings and reevaluations can be found [here](#). The Department has not yet solidified timeline extensions and will provide further guidance once this occurs.

Evaluation considerations:

- In the case of re-evaluation, can eligibility be determined using existing data?
- Can instruments be utilized that do not require face-to-face administration?
- Pause timelines (not waive them) for:
 - initial evaluation- pause timeline for initiating an evaluation when request is received. Consider delaying obtaining parent consent until school based instruction resumes.
- We encourage you if you can to work to conduct evaluations and maintain activities during this period of extended alternative learning by the following:
 - Conducting interviews
 - Completing rating scales
 - Completing file reviews
 - Possibly conducting observations of virtual instruction (done on a case by case basis, and only if meaningful to the evaluation).
- **Use your professional judgement and prioritize the health and safety of yourself and others when considering conducting evaluations. Be mindful of increased anxiety, depression and the overall well-being of the student and their families before commencing any activities.**

Decisions regarding referrals and evaluations should be made on a case-by-case basis, following USDE guidance.

School Psychologists should do the best they can given the circumstances – IDEA did not address global pandemics.

- Conduct evaluations and meetings as possible
- Complete activities that must be completed person-to-person when school resumes
- Consider offering other support to your district if you are trained and comfortable doing so (counseling, coaching, and other types of support)

Further guidance can be found on the [MDOE Special Services](#) webpage