



Got Special Ed Questions? Marin County SELPA Provides Answers! Part 3: Special Education, IEPs, and Distance Learning During COVID-19

QUESTION 7:

How are school districts utilizing related service providers with the distance learning model, especially those who provide 1:1 support?

ANSWER 7:

During this national emergency, schools may be unable to provide all services in the same manner as in in-person sessions. Marin County school districts are establishing a variety of ways in which these services are provided – virtually or telephonically – to support students to the maximum extent possible.

Related service provider assignments may vary, as parents and educators collaborate to meet the unique needs of students through the distance learning model. Related service delivery within a distance learning model may include but is not limited to: service provided via teleconference, service provided via videoconference, individual student check-in/check-outs, parent consultation, teacher consultation, the delivery of work/materials designed to support skills development, or a combination of multiple service delivery models. It is encouraged for parents, educators, and administrators to collaborate creatively to continue to meet the needs of each student.



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QUESTION 8:

In what ways are Marin County School Districts supporting families who do not have access to technology or have poor internet connectivity?

ANSWER 8:

The Marin County SELPA's member districts are actively working to provide support to families who do not have access to technology and/or have poor internet connectivity. Many of the districts have provided equipment and internet hotspots to families to ensure students have equitable access to remote learning. Additionally, free internet access has been made available locally in Marin County, and the California Department of Education has made laptops and internet hotspots available to districts to provide to families, as needed.

For those unique circumstances in which access to the internet is extremely poor or significantly hindered, districts are developing individualized ways to deliver instruction and curriculum. For example, some districts are developing targeted instructional packets when access to curriculum and resources via the internet is not possible for students. This approach allows families to have consistent access to instructional materials while on-site instruction has been suspended.



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QUESTION 9:

How is the Marin County SELPA sharing information with families?

ANSWER 9:

The Marin County SELPA has been consistently providing information and resources to districts since on-site instruction at schools has been suspended. As part of this process, the SELPA office has made it a priority to provide professional development/parent education opportunities to parents in the school community. For example, the SELPA introduced a series of technology trainings to support parents in becoming more familiar with the tools and applications that are being utilized as part of distance learning.

Additionally, "Ask the Expert" webinars are being made available to families. The webinars are designed to provide personalized guidance to support families with distance learning in specific content areas. Although the webinars are live video conferences, the sessions are recorded so they are readily available to the school community. Information about these offerings and future events can be found on the Marin County SELPA website – www.marinselpa.org.