Parents (And Lawyers) Say Distance Learning Failed Too Many Special Education Students.

As Fall Approaches, Families Wonder If Their Children Will Lose Another School Year

-July 30, 2020

By Linda Jacobson
Surveys show students with special needs did not get the services in their IEPs when schools closed.

Press Release

ParentsTogether Survey Reveals Remote Learning is Failing One of Most Vulnerable Students

By ParentsTogether Foundation - May 27, 2020

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From the Parents Together survey:

- Just 20% of parents whose children have an Individualized Educational Program (IEP) or are entitled to other special education services say that they are receiving those services.
- 39% are not receiving any support at all.
Noel and Jabril Scott
Noel Scott:

• “For the first month [of school closures], we didn’t hear anything from any therapist at all.”

• “Especially if we’re going to be doing online distance learning, there has to be a lot of engagement for him to participate in that.”
Reports of Litigation
Reports of Litigation

A potential class action suit proposes that the Hawaii DOE set parameters to assess the needs of Hawaii’s special education students during the school closures.
Survey from the The School Superintendents Association, National School Boards Association and Association of Educational Service Agencies:

• “I fear that the cost of litigation could potentially bankrupt our district.”

• “We are a very small independent district, and a single due process hearing could, in reality, close down the district.”
Percentage Of IDEA-related complaints, by category: 2020

-AASA, NSBA and AESA survey
Advocates call for liability protections.

Sasha Pudelski @SPudelski

BREAKING: A giant multi-state class-action lawsuit filed against districts for failure to meet FAPE during the pandemic. 104 students in 14 states are suing so districts so far. dataserver.lrp.com/DATA/servlet/D..
Congress should re-think IDEA liability protection!

7:50 AM · Aug 3, 2020 · Twitter Web App
“We don’t need an epidemic of lawsuits on the heels of the pandemic we’re already struggling with.”

– Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell
“I’m excited I have an option, but I don’t even know if those choices are the best.”

Tracy James (about her grandson Kyrian)
Positive experiences

- Suchma Elementary teachers Kaitlin Fredrickson and Kimberly Moser visited Carter at home during the lockdown.
“We’re all trying to right this ship.”

-Mississippi State Superintendent Carey Wright
This fall

How are schools “going to meet the enormous academic needs students present when they walk in the door, whether it’s in person or virtual?”

-Nathan Jones, Boston University
Wait and see....

“Honestly, this is not a point-your-finger blame game. We’re in this pandemic together.”

-Ann Siegel, the director of advocacy, education and outreach for Disability Rights Florida
Thank You!

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