DESE Special Education and COVID-19
FCSN/SPaN Webinar
May 6, 2020
Remote learning looks different for everyone
Shift in Providing Remote Instruction
School Closure Until at Least May 4

• Safety and wellbeing of students, families and staff continue to be top priority

• Must focus on equity for our most vulnerable students

• Maintaining connections between school staff and students is paramount
DESE solicited stakeholder engagement to develop implementation recommendations from the following groups:

- **Special Education Directors**
  - ASE Executive Board
  - Massachusetts Urban Project

- **Educators and Related Services Providers**
  - MCEC

- **Parents**
  - FCSN
  - SEAP members

- **Advocates**
  - SPaN
  - ARC Leadership

- **Approved Special Education Schools**
  - maaps leadership

- **Collaboratives**
  - MOEC

- **Attorneys representing schools and families**
Implementation of Remote Services
Key Tenets of Remote Learning

• Remote learning comes in many forms and is not always online learning
• Schools and districts have local contexts that they must navigate
• Planning and time for planning are key
• We’re doing something we’ve never done before, but we can deliver remote special education services
Models of Remote Service Delivery

Supports and Resources

and

Instruction and Services (Whole Class, Small Group, Individualized)
Supports and Resources: Key Components

• Provision of strategies, assignments, projects, and packets to students
  o General education materials with accommodations
  o Materials directly from special educators and related service providers
  o Consider making choices available to students
Communication is Critical

• Regular, ongoing check-ins with families (phone, email, district-approved social media, etc.)
  o Use check-ins to discuss special education supports and services, prioritize learning needs, problem solve learning and behavioral issues at home, and customize the daily schedule for students
  o Help to overcome individual obstacles to accessing materials and resources
  o Scheduling times with families recommended

• Office hours
  o Specific hours in the day parents can sign-up for ahead of time and touch base with a specific person at the school
Instruction and Services

Goal
Provide more direct services to students in whole class, small group, or individualized formats

Expectations
• All schools and districts can now implement aspects of this model by providing as many of these services as possible given the current circumstances
• Schools and districts will make continual systemic improvements to increase the provision of services over time
Developing and Improving Systems for Provision of Remote Services
Compensatory Services

- Providing services now is the most effective way to mitigate the need for compensatory services in the future
- Individualized determination
- More information to come
04 Known Hurdles
Thank you!