



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING


GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** April 10, 2020

**TO:** Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents  
Public School Academy Directors

**FROM:** Dr. Scott M. Koenigsknecht, Deputy Superintendent P-20 System and Student Transitions 

**SUBJECT:** Guidance for Compliance with IDEA and the MARSE During the COVID-19 Pandemic

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) Office of Special Education (OSE) is releasing [Guidance for Compliance With the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and the Michigan Administrative Rules for Special Education During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#). This guidance document is designed to assist districts in meeting the IDEA Part B and MARSE requirements in support of Governor Whitmer's [Executive Order 2020-35](#). The MDE has worked to ensure this guidance is aligned and consistent with information provided by the federal Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP). The COVID-19 pandemic continues to disrupt special education both in Michigan and across the country, and therefore this guidance will be regularly updated as new and more information becomes available. Districts will be notified of updates.

The MDE has requested flexibilities from US Department of Education for certain requirements of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act pertaining to initial evaluation timelines, re-evaluation due dates, annual individualized education program (IEP) review timelines, state complaint timelines, and Part C to Part B transition timelines.

As we complete the 2019-2020 school year, the MDE encourages districts to work together with students and families to ensure, to the greatest extent possible, students receive services necessary and appropriate to address their unique needs.

Should you have any questions, or in the event you would like to discuss the contents of the guidance document for any clarification, please contact Teri Chapman, Director of the OSE at [chapmant2@michigan.gov](mailto:chapmant2@michigan.gov).

cc: Michigan Education Alliance

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