

IEP Timeline Changes and Suggestions

IEP Action	IDEA	Adapted for COVID
Initial Evaluation	The IDEA provides that initial evaluations must be conducted within 60 calendar days of receiving parental consent or within a state established timeframe.	Due to the current states of emergency at the federal and state levels, evaluations initiated or in process on or after March 3, 2020 may be completed within 90 calendar days of receipt of parental consent, rather than the usual 60-day requirements.
Initial IEP	Pursuant to 34 CFR §300.323(c), a meeting to develop an IEP for a child must be conducted within 30 days of a determination that the child needs special education and related services.	Services must begin “as soon as possible” as deemed by the IEP Team.
Annual IEP Review	The IDEA requires that the child's IEP be reviewed periodically, but not less than annually, to determine whether the annual goals for the child are being achieved; and revise the IEP, as appropriate.	in making changes to a child's IEP after the annual IEP Team meeting for a school year, the parent of a child with a disability and the public agency may agree not to convene an IEP Team meeting for the purposes of making those changes, and may develop a written document to amend or modify the child's current IEP. When conducting IEP Team meetings and placement meetings, the parent of a child with a disability and a public agency may agree to use alternative means of meeting participation requirements, such as video conferences and conference calls.
3 Year Evaluation	The IDEA does not provide an evaluation timeline for re-evaluations other than the 3-year re-evaluation timeline.	For re-evaluations due during a school closing, teams should complete the re-evaluation as soon as possible upon return. For re-evaluations due while students are attending a virtual instructional setting, cases should be treated on an individual basis; however, every attempt should be made to complete the reevaluation to the extent possible, given reasonable access to the student.
3 Year Renewal IEP	These must be conducted within 30 days of a determination that the child still qualifies for special education and related services.	As with the initial IEP implementation, services must begin “as soon as possible” as deemed by the IEP Team.

Adapted from:

- Q&A Document by the USDOE: <https://www2.ed.gov/policy/speced/guid/idea/memosdcltrs/qa-covid-19-03-12-2020.pdf>.
- TN Department of Education, Services to Students with Disabilities COVID-19 Guidance. <https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/education/health-&-safety/Services%20to%20Students%20with%20Disabilities%20COVID-19%20Guidance.pdf>