



Rhode Island
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Education News in Rhode Island

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With distance learning now extending to the end of the school year, you, as a parent, may have many questions. Here are a few things you need to know:

1 Readers are encouraged to review the underlying information here and reminded that this bulletin is for informational purposes only. It does not create an attorney-client relationship.

Distance Learning Basics:

Every child is entitled to an education, including children with additional learning needs, disabilities, or limited English skills.

Distance learning changes how those services are delivered. **It does not change your child's right to receive them.**



By now, your child's teachers should have reached out to you to make sure your child is participating in remote learning, including any special services your child received before, and any technology tools or help you need to connect. If this has not happened, call

your child's teacher or the school district administration to make sure this happens.

Receiving Services during Distance Learning:

You may want to work with your child's teachers to explore different ways to provide education help that can't be provided in person anymore—worksheets as well as telephone or video work with your child or consultation with you, the parent. Even services like physical therapy or speech can be provided by phone or video.

Keep track of the amount of services that aren't being provided or aren't effective or are being provided only in part. Your child may be eligible to receive these services later.

If you are having trouble with remote learning technology or approaches, Highlander Institute has a helpline: (904) 414-4927. You can also fill out a [questionnaire here](#).



Don't feel pressured to agree to change or waive your child's services because they are harder to provide during distance learning. Your school should work with you to provide them in different ways now or later. If your child has a special education plan or receives English Learner services, all those services should still be provided as much as possible now, or should be provided later if they are not provided now.

Remember, if your child tends to regress whenever there is a break in school, or if your child needed summer services last year, your child may need them this year and they should be provided. Reach

out to your school district to ask for these services. School meetings about your child's services are being held by video.

Do you have questions?

Rhode Island Legal Services can help you understand your rights. You can call us at 274-2652 x 164.



RESOURCES TO HELP YOU

We all know someone who has been impacted by this crisis. If you need help, our Providence office can be reached at 401-274-2652 and our Newport office can be reached at 401-846-2264. If you'd like to help, [donate here](#). Other helpful resources are available too. You are not alone.



Click the buttons below for more useful information:

**Center for Disease Control
& Prevention (CDC)**

**RI Office of the Governor,
Gina Raimondo**

**US Department of Veteran
Affairs**

**Medicare & Medicaid
Resources**

Social Security Resource

United Way Rhode Island

**RI Coalition for the
Homeless**

**RI Department of Labor
and Training**

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