



# Advocates for Children of New York

Protecting every child's right to learn

## COVID Compensatory Services

Many students with disabilities didn't make progress in school during remote and hybrid learning due to COVID and need extra supports and services to get back on track. Although the NYC DOE was supposed to offer all NYC public school students with IEPs individualized Special Education Recovery Services ("SERS"), many students did not receive what they needed. Now, all IEP teams are supposed to discuss if a student needs COVID Compensatory Services. COVID Compensatory Services are additional specialized services to help students catch up to where they would have been if they had received appropriate special education services during any period of remote/hybrid learning.

***A conversation about COVID Compensatory Services should happen at your child's IEP meeting this year; If your meeting isn't scheduled for a while, you can ask for one to talk about additional services.***

The DOE added a section to the IEP about COVID Compensatory Services. There is a Yes/No box and space to explain. You'll find it right above the Testing Accommodations section on the IEP.

COMPENSATORY SERVICES
<b>Compensatory Services</b> -Does the student require additional services to address lost skills and/or lack of expected progress due to the periods of remote and blended learning beginning in March 2020? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
The student does not require compensatory services for the following reason(s):

*In this example, the team said "No," but if the IEP team agrees that your child needs compensatory services, the box should be marked "Yes."*

If the IEP team doesn't discuss this section with you when you meet, you can bring it up. If you think your child needs Compensatory Services, ask for them and be ready to explain why and what services you think are needed. You can still ask for Compensatory Services even if your child received Special Education Recovery Services (SERS) during the 2021-2022 school year. If your child's school doesn't have what your child needs, ask your IEP team to ask central DOE for help.

### ***What sorts of services are available?***

Services differ from school-to-school but should be individualized for your child needs. Typically, they include Special Education Teacher Support Services ("SETSS") or small group instruction and related services, like physical, occupational and speech therapy.

## ***When are the services offered?***

Compensatory Services can be offered:

- Before school
- After school
- Saturdays
- Remotely

If the times the school offers don't work for you, say so. If the school can't change the times, they may offer you vouchers called P3s for tutoring and Related Services Authorizations (RSAs) to use with outside providers, but you'll need to find those providers yourself. If you are given a P3 or RSA but can't find a provider, contact [relatedservices@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:relatedservices@schools.nyc.gov). You can also ask for an increased rate if you are not able to find a provider who takes the DOE rate.

## ***What about busing?***

If your child has transportation on their IEP, the DOE should provide transportation to compensatory services. At this time, we don't have details about what will be offered beyond metro cards, but if your child needs busing to and from Compensatory Services, you should ask for it at the IEP meeting.

## ***What if you don't agree with what your child is offered?***

If you don't agree with what the school offers or the times/format offered don't work for your child, tell school staff in writing. Be clear about what you are asking for. You can also go to the Superintendent's office, email [sers@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:sers@schools.nyc.gov), or call 311 to explain why your child needs compensatory services and why you don't agree with the rest of the IEP team. If none of that works, you may have to file for an impartial hearing to get them.

**Have questions or need assistance?  
Please call AFC's Jill Chaifetz Education Helpline:**

866-427-6033 (toll free) • 10am to 4pm • Monday — Thursday

[www.advocatesforchildren.org](http://www.advocatesforchildren.org)

*This fact sheet does not constitute legal advice. If you have a legal problem, please contact an attorney or advocate.*

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