



Northern Lights Special Education Cooperative

16 East Hwy 61, PO Box 40, Esko, MN 55733

P. (218) 655-5018 F. (218) 451-4511

www.nlsec.org

Dena Hagen ~ Special Education Director

Additional Guidance for COVID-19 Special Education Recovery Services and Supports

September 21, 2021

Special Education Case Managers,

In response to the situations where you will be having Special Education recovery services meetings and conversations with families, before any decisions regarding what types of recovery services will be offered, student needs must be identified. Then, teams can determine when, where, how, and by who the services will be delivered.

IEP/IFSP teams should be reviewing student data from spring, summer, and during this 1st quarter, making sure to get input from general education teachers and related service providers. It's recommended that case managers, along with other team members at school, review their caseloads and identify which students are likely in need of recovery services.

It is ok to talk about needs with families at a meeting and make a proposal of how to meet those needs afterwards, through a PWN.

There is no set timeline by which data reviews need to be completed, however, teams should consider the following:

- Completing the majority of data reviews as soon as possible will help determine the recovery services in a timely manner, for planning purposes.
- A lot of the data needed is likely available for most students, but there may be some who need more data to be collected before determinations can be made. These students may not have data reviewed until later in the fall, after they have had the opportunity to recoup services.
- Data needs to be comprehensively reviewed before recovery services determinations are made.

As needs emerge, building teams should identify themes and work with their building administrators and other appropriate staff to decide what recovery services are already available, may also be needed and when, how, and by whom those services will best be delivered (i.e., within the day, before school, after school, ESY, WIN time, etc.). This will allow districts to begin determining what resources need to be allocated to special education recovery services and equipping IEP/IFSP teams with options for parents to consider.

Please note, while a district may determine a general structure in which to provide recovery services, it may not limit individualized determinations that may be appropriate and necessary based on a student's unique needs.

As a reminder, if parents prefer to discuss recovery services by phone without convening the full IEP team, that is permissible, so long as that decision gets documented on the PWN. See examples I sent last week that are also posted on our website under Communications>COVID-19 Resources.

Thank you so much for your work on this,
-Dena