

MARCH 2020 TO DO LIST  
DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION  
OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION - PART B COMPLIANCE

- 1) This spring many IEP Teams will be making decisions regarding a student's participation in the MAP or the **MAP-A** during the 2020/2021 school year. It is important the IEP Teams are aware of the eligibility criteria for participation in the MAP-A and how to appropriately determine eligibility based on these criteria. On the DESE website you can find a myth of the month over [Alternate Assessments](#) as well as the updated [MAP-A guidance](#) posted on the Special Education Compliance General Guidance webpage. The Office of College & Career Readiness has additional resources regarding [MAP-A](#) on their page.
- 2) **Extended School Year (ESY)** decisions must be made prior to the end of the regular school year and documented in the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP). IEP [Form B](#) can be used by the public agency to document decisions regarding ESY as well as goals to be addressed and services to be provided. The IEP amendment process can be used to make ESY decisions after the annual IEP review has been held. ESY is NOT summer school. Summer school is designed to benefit all students, usually through regular curriculum enrichment activities, while ESY is specially designed instruction provided during breaks in the school year to mitigate regression in skills and reduce the amount of recoupment needed when school resumes. ESY is required in order to provide FAPE to students with disabilities as determined by their IEP Teams.
- 3) Mark your calendars for the **Transition Training Institute**. The [Transition Training Institute](#) will be held June 22 – 25 in Columbia, MO at the Holiday Inn Executive Center. The Pre-Conference held June 22 will be a day full of Compliance and Transition Where you will learn to *Walk, Talk and Navigate Compliance*. Compliance experts will guide learners through transition planning paying attention to the sequence for making decisions and taking actions to make sure transition plans are timely, compliant and effective. Register for this FREE training and other summer professional development opportunities at <https://www.mylearningplan.com>.
- 4) The **Missouri Interagency Transition Team (MITT)** was created to increase interagency collaboration in order to improve employment, independent living, and postsecondary outcomes for students with disabilities. The MITT has developed a comprehensive Resource List which may be useful to IEP Teams when developing transition plans for student. <http://disability.mo.gov/MITT.htm>
- 5) **Tiered Monitoring Year 3** – Cohort 1 LEAs should be providing professional development to maintain compliance and improve outcomes for students with disabilities. Also, please be sure to review procedures and practices within your LEA to increase efficiency and effectiveness in order to support continued compliance.
- 6) **Tiered Monitoring Year 2** – Cohort 2 LEAs who had noncompliance identified for either their initial evaluation or C to B Transition timelines need to submit their **Follow-Up Timelines** by March 20. 2020. Cohort 2 LEAs who had noncompliance identified through their file review should be implementing their approved Plans for Correction and preparing their **Samples of Correction** to

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submit by April 1, 2020. Please contact your Compliance Supervisor or your RPDC Compliance Consultant for assistance.

- 7) **Tiered Monitoring Year 1** – Cohort 3 LEAs conducting a self-assessment this year should receive notification via IMACS 2.0 during the first week of March concerning file selection. LEAs will be asked to upload student files within IMACS 2.0. Access the [Self-Assessment Training for Cohort 3](#) presentation and review slides 16 - 18. Please call 573-751-0699 if you have questions.

As Cohort 3 LEAs get ready to submit their C to B transition and initial evaluation timelines in May remember to also upload a copy of your district calendar showing the days that school was not in session due to holidays, snow, flu, etc. If the sixty-day timeline was exceeded because the student was unavailable for testing, provide a list of the dates the student was absent.

- 8) Starting in the school year 2020-21 LEAs will not be required to make up school time that is lost or cancelled due to exceptional or emergency circumstances during a school year (up to thirty-six hours) if the LEA implements an **Alternative Methods of Instruction (AMI)** Plan that is approved by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). DESE will approve such plans only if the LEA demonstrates that the plan will not negatively impact teaching and learning in the LEA. LEAs that want to use AMI will be required to request approval of an AMI Plan annually.

The Office of Special Education created [AMI guidance](#) which is available on our DESE's Compliance website under General Guidance. Districts considering AMI during the 2020-21 school year should carefully review the *Implementation guidance for alternative methods of instruction (AMI) days for students with disabilities* and guidance provided by the Office of Quality Schools.

- 9) DESE has provided each LEA in Missouri with a complimentary subscription to LRP's **Special Ed Connection**. Special Ed Connections is an online resource that provides instant access to Special Education topics such as federal regulations or case law as well as guidance documents to assist districts with IDEA compliance. The March Myth of the Month covered **OBSERVATIONS** and there is a guidance document from LRP to assist districts gain a better understanding of how to document classroom observation data. [Your Quick Guide to Documenting Classroom Observation Data](#) explores best practices for classroom observations and offers some tips for effective observation documentation. If you need assistance accessing your Special Ed Connections account please contact Cori Reines at LRP either via email [creines@lrp.com](mailto:creines@lrp.com) or by phone 800-515-4577, ext. 6439.