COVID-19 and Special Education Services

Office of Special Education Services

Molly M. Spearman – State Superintendent of Education

Rules of Order

- All are on mute – mute button or *6 on phone
- PPT will be provided
- Safe place
- Please hold questions
- Use Chat Box

Link for Resources & Questions

Website

- https://ed.sc.gov/districts-schools/special-education-services/information-about-covid-19-coronavirus/

Submit a question

- https://scoses.formstack.com/forms/closures_question_and_answer

Agenda

- Priorities and Reminders
- General “Guidance”
- Documentation
  - PWN
  - Contact logs
  - Service logs
  - Progress Reports
- Emergency Learning Plans
- Schedule of calls
- Resources

Priorities

- Health and safety needs
- Student needs before compliance
- **Frequent and clear communication**

Fiscal & Grants Management

- On-site Fiscal Monitoring visits have been suspended for the remainder of this school year.
- Technical assistance in areas already identified will continue.
- We are waiting on guidance from the Office of Special Education Programs regarding the effects of the alternate learning experience on **Maintenance of Effort** and **Excess Cost.**

FY20 IDEA Applications

- The Fiscal Year 2020 IDEA Application process will continue on the same timeline with some modifications. Please look for more information from the OSES Fiscal and Grants Management Team over the next several weeks.

Reminders

- Special education requirements and timelines are set forth in federal statute

- OSEP/SEAs/LEAs do not have the authority to alter or waive these requirements

The Department (USED/OSEP) understands that, during this national emergency, schools may not be able to provide all services in the same manner they are typically provided.

OSEP Guidance

- If instruction *is not* being provided to students without disabilities, then special education and related services are not required to be provided to students with disabilities
- If instruction ***is*** being provided to all students, districts must provide equitable access to that instruction for students with disabilities

What happens if schools are closed for an extended period of time?

- IEP teams will need to meet to make individualized determinations as to whether there is a need for compensatory services
- More guidance will be coming

Should all IEPs be amended in response to the school closures?

- No, as always, IEP amendments/changes are individual IEP team decisions
- PWNs can be used to communicate interim, "contingency" service delivery changes
- The need for compensatory services should be addressed once schools reopen

What happens with initial evaluations?

- Initial evaluation timeline (60-day)
  - Complete any part of the evaluation that does not require face-to-face interaction (interviews, rating scales,…)
  - Do not modify assessment administration to fit a virtual format
- Communicate clearly with parents and families that all components of the evaluation will be completed as soon as schools reopen

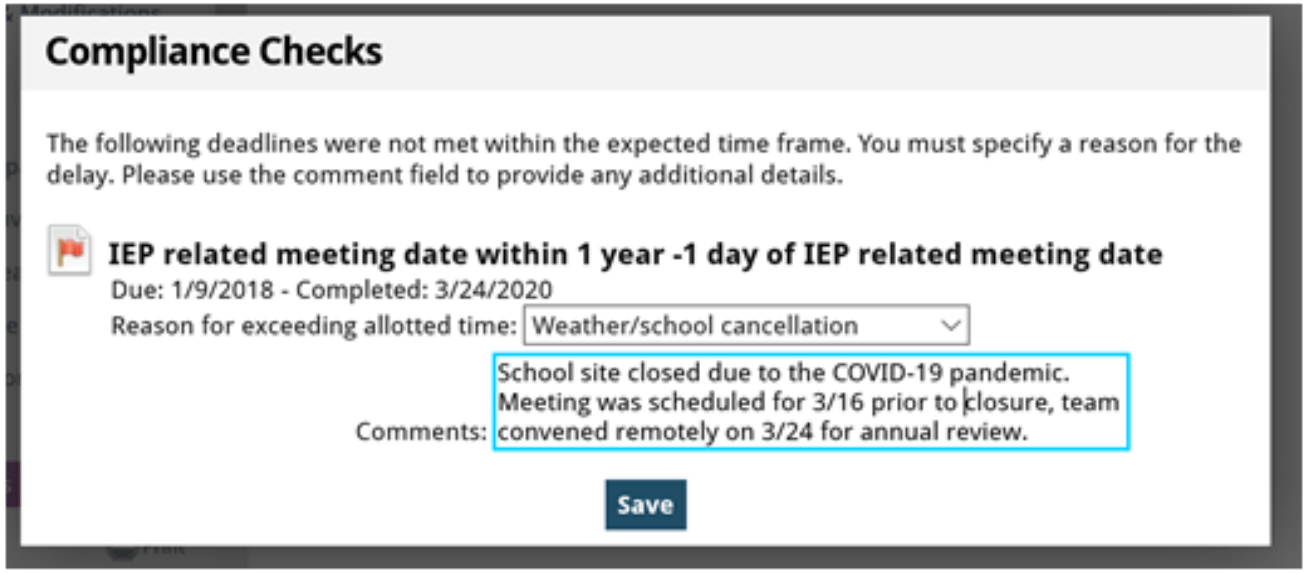
What happens with annual reviews and reevaluations?

- Teams may conduct meetings virtually via telephone or videoconference if at all possible
- When teams are unable to complete the annual review or reevaluation in a timely manner justification will be recorded in Enrich and the inability to complete the annual review or reevaluation on time will be part of the discussion regarding compensatory services when schools reopen

Transfers

- Must be provided with comparable services until...
- Guidance from district as far as transfers in general

Compliance Check in Enrich



PWNs

- PWN to describe contingency plan during this time
- Goal is to communicate clearly with parents
- Sample will be provided

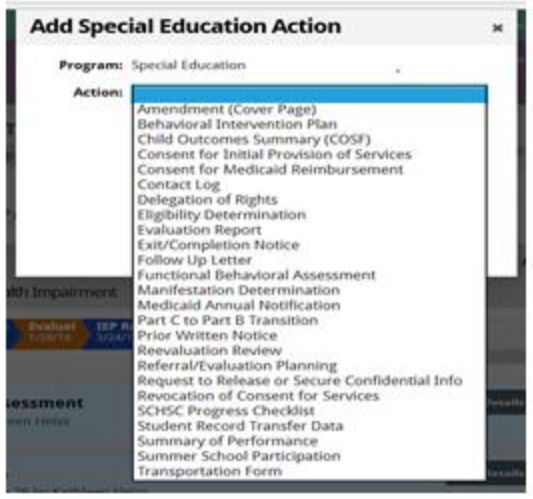
Programmatic Corrective Actions

- If you can complete corrective actions from program reviews or LORs during school closure period –great!
- If you need an extension of time, you can submit a request to your lead monitor or corrective action specialist.

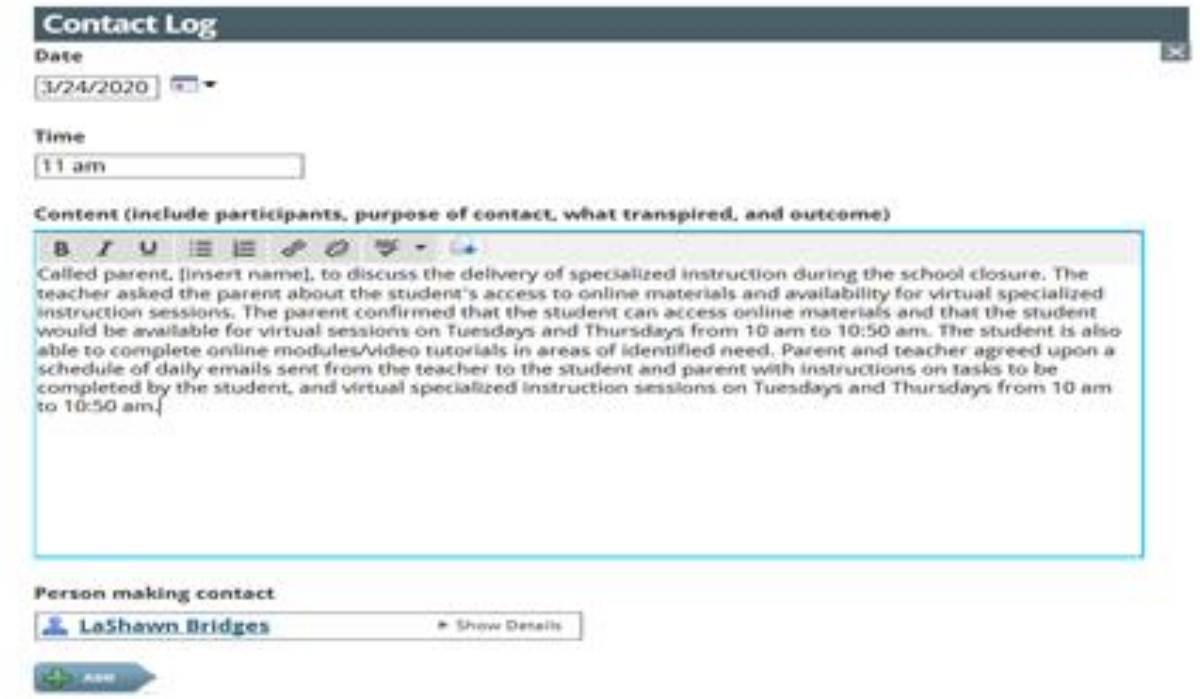
Documentation is Key

- Enrich
- Log contact with parents
- Log services
- Do not need duplicate methods of documentation but must document service provision in some way
- Google Doc/samples coming

Documenting Parent Contacts in Enrich



Documenting Parent Contacts in Enrich



Contact Log Print Out

SOUTH CAROLINA STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

South Carolina School District
Contact Log

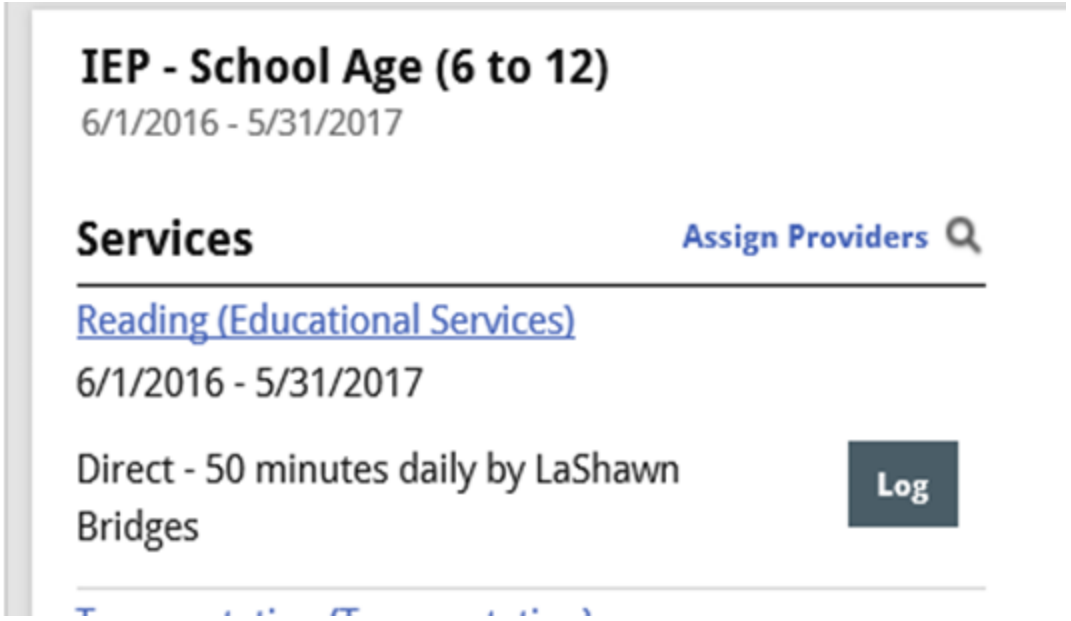
1429 Senate Street
Columbia, SC 29201
(803) 734-8500

Diana Simone Bormuth	07/02/2009	157058668300	3866850751
Legal Name of Student	**DOB**	**Local ID**	**SUNS**

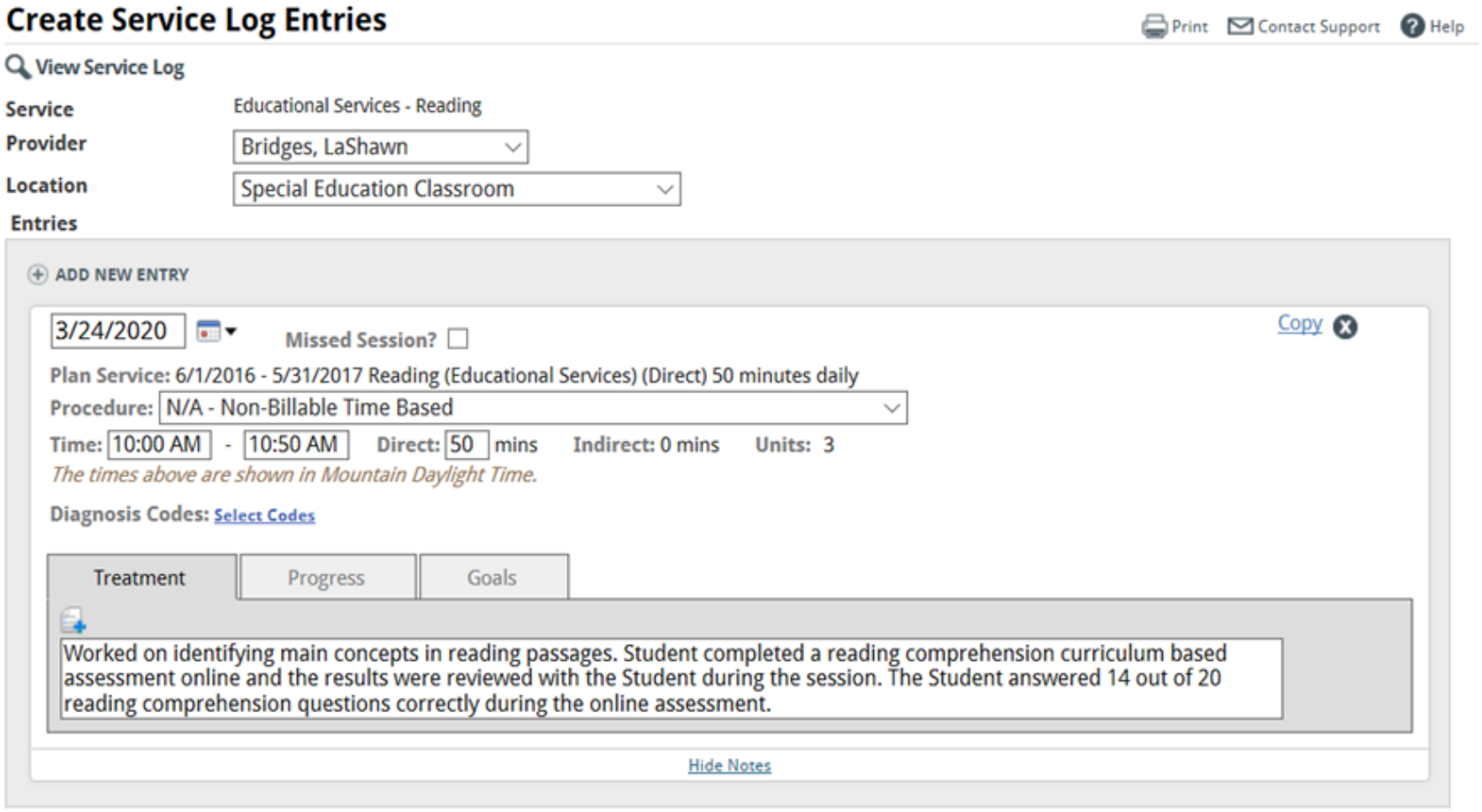
PARENT CONTACT LOG

Date	Time	Person Making Contact	Content
3/24/2020	11 am	LaShawn Bridges	Called parent, [insert name], to discuss the delivery of specialized instruction during the school closure. The teacher asked the parent about the student's access to online materials and availability for virtual specialized instruction sessions. The parent confirmed that the student can access online materials and that the student would be available for virtual sessions on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 am to 10:50 am. The student is also able to complete online modules/video tutorials in areas of identified need. Parent and teacher agreed upon a schedule of daily emails sent from the teacher to the student and parent with instructions on tasks to be completed by the student, and virtual specialized instruction sessions on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 am to 10:50 am.

Documenting Services in Enrich



Documenting Services in Enrich



Progress Reports

- Will be individualized based on goal and instructional methods
- Be specific in identifying source of data
  - Web-based assessment tool
  - On-line CBM

Data Reporting

- Review Data for Accuracy
- Virtual meetings for districts with issues /concerns

Emergency Learning Plans

- How is your district providing instruction to all students?
  - Virtual/distance learning
  - Instructional packets

- How will you provide reasonable and practical access to this instruction for students with disabilities?

Resources

- Weekly calls – format for two-way communication, not just info sharing
- Link for questions
- FAQ
- Edmodo/Padlet

- Health and safety first
- Practical and reasonable attempts
- Student needs before compliance