



**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE**  
**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

**CHRISTOPHER T. SUNUNU**  
Governor

March 31, 2020

Dear Ms. Beaudoin,

I am in receipt of your letter from last week regarding New Hampshire's commitment to providing appropriate educational opportunities for students with disabilities as we continue to educate students remotely.

As you know, ensuring that students with disabilities are not left behind during this epidemic has been a major priority for the New Hampshire Department of Education and myself. The Department has taken several steps to ensure that all New Hampshire students continue to receive a quality education. This includes our "three-tiered safety-net," designed to make sure that no student is left behind, under which:

- Special education services may be of a nature that they can be provided in a remote instructional environment;
- Special education services may be able to be provided in person, with limited cohort sizes and other preventative measures that allow in-person service, delivery in our schools, or by one of our valued providers;
- Finally, if we are simply not able to provide those services, we may need to revert to compensatory services.

New Hampshire's teachers and school administrators have been an immense asset in ensuring the success of remote learning for all of our students. We are inspired by their commitment, innovation, and flexibility to help all students - including those with disabilities - receive the best education possible in the wake of this unprecedented global pandemic. I am not aware of any federal waivers that would allow any state to walk away from provisions of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, but we would not consider any such waiver without the input of advocates, parents, teachers and administrators.

Attached, please find a letter from the State Director of Special Education, Rebecca Fredette, which includes guidance regarding special education services. Additionally, the New Hampshire Department of Education will continue to post COVID-19 resources for schools, including guidance documents and recorded listening sessions. These resources will continue to be available at <https://www.education.nh.gov/who-we-are/commissioner/covid-19>.

We remain committed to providing a free and appropriate public education for all eligible students with disabilities - even during these challenging times.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chris T. Sununu".

Christopher T. Sununu  
Governor

Cc: Michelle Lewis, Parent Information Center  
Isadora Rodriguez-Legendre, Executive Director, NH Council on Developmental Disabilities  
Stephanie Patrick, Disability Rights Center  
Deb Ritchey, Granite State Independent Living  
Jonathan Routhier, Executive Director, Community Support Network