



DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC SECURITY

Your Partner For A Stronger Arizona

DIVISION OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Sent on Behalf of DES/DDD

Remote Learning and DDD Members

Target Audience - Qualified Vendors and Providers

Transmittal Date - 08/14/2020

The issue of school aged DDD members who are not able to attend in-person school and who need support to engage in remote learning is a topic that is very important to members, families and providers. DDD continues to work closely with AHCCCS and the Arizona Department of Education and is awaiting clarification on what services if any will be deliverable during school time. Once that guidance is received DDD will provide further guidance and clarification. The interim guidance DDD has provided to Support Coordinators and vendors/providers remains the same:

- If service authorizations are currently on the member's plan and those services extend beyond the beginning of the school year, these services can remain on the plan and vendors should deliver these services as outlined in the approved plan.
- If authorized services expire and were in their entirety or a portion being used to support remote learning, the remote learning portion of services cannot be extended.
- If you receive new requests for services to support children to engage in their school day, these cannot be authorized until we have more clarity from our funding and regulatory partners on this issue. As soon as we have guidance to share, we will immediately notify all staff, vendors, and other stakeholders.

In the meantime, there is one clarification about the school day that DDD can provide based on a number of questions that have been submitted to the Division. Support Coordinators should use documentation from the member's IEP or 504 plan, and published school learning plan (such as on a district website) to identify the schedule for in-person, synchronous, asynchronous, and hybrid learning schedules to identify each child's "school day".

- Synchronous learning is online learning with scheduled, real-time virtual instruction. Children attend the classroom virtually each day and submit assignments and participate as they would if they were attending in person.
- Asynchronous learning is online learning supported through a virtual platform with teacher-created lessons and assignments. Parents and students determine the schedule to get the work done.
- Hybrid models are a combination of the two.

Parents should provide additional information about the schedule they establish for each child who is in a part or full time asynchronous learning model. The Support Coordinator will document the child's school day in the planning document before assessing any medically necessary services. Medically necessary services, which do not support a member's school day, may still be assessed and authorized as usual.