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| Department of Elementary and Secondary Education logo | *News from Commissioner Jeffrey C. Riley & the*  *MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education* |

**On the Desktop – June 7, 2020**

**Message about Summer 2020 Special Education Services**

Dear Superintendents, Charter School Leaders, Assistant Superintendents, Special Education Directors, Collaborative Leaders, and Leaders of Special Education Schools,

The attached memo supplements the [Initial Summer School Re-Opening Guidance](http://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/on-desktop/2020-0604initial-guidance-document.docx) *(download)* that I sent on June 4, 2020. [The guidance](http://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/on-desktop/2020-0608guidance-summer2020-sped-services.docx) *(download)* attached to this email addresses the first priority: students with disabilities, specifically those who receive summer services as a provision of their Individualized Education Programs (IEPs). These students’ IEPs may call for Extended School Year (ESY) services, summer programs, or, in the case of some students attending education collaboratives or approved special education schools, year-round services.

As was the case during the final months of the 2019-20 school year, special education services will look different this summer, since the health and safety of students, parents/guardians, and school personnel remain the top priorities. However, schools and districts should employ their best efforts to provide as many in-person services to high-priority students this summer as is feasible while following proper health and safety precautions.

The Department has collaborated with other state agencies to help districts and schools set priorities for in-person instruction this summer. These health and safety guidelines apply to in-person special education services for the summer only and will be revisited for the start of the new school year.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey C. Riley

Commissioner