



Recovering from Lost Learning

Understanding Special Education Basics to
Understand COVID-19 Impact Services



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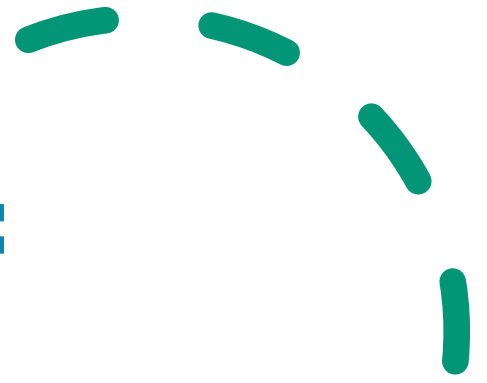
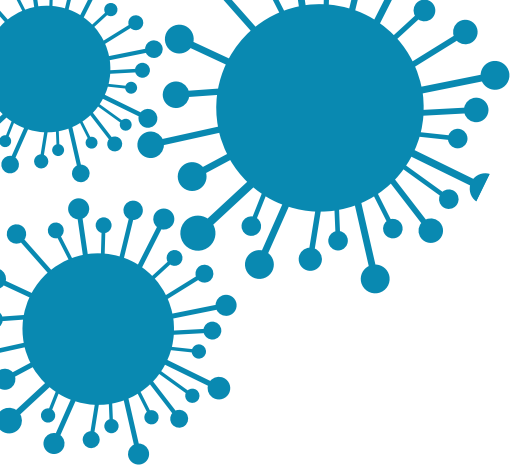
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Questions to be answered:

- What is the Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) to which my child is entitled?
- How do I know if my child lost any learning opportunities?



Questions to be answered:

- What are COVID-19 Impact (compensatory education) Services?
- How can I prepare to advocate for my child to help him/her get caught up and be back on track?






FAPE

Your child is entitled to a Free
Appropriate Public Education




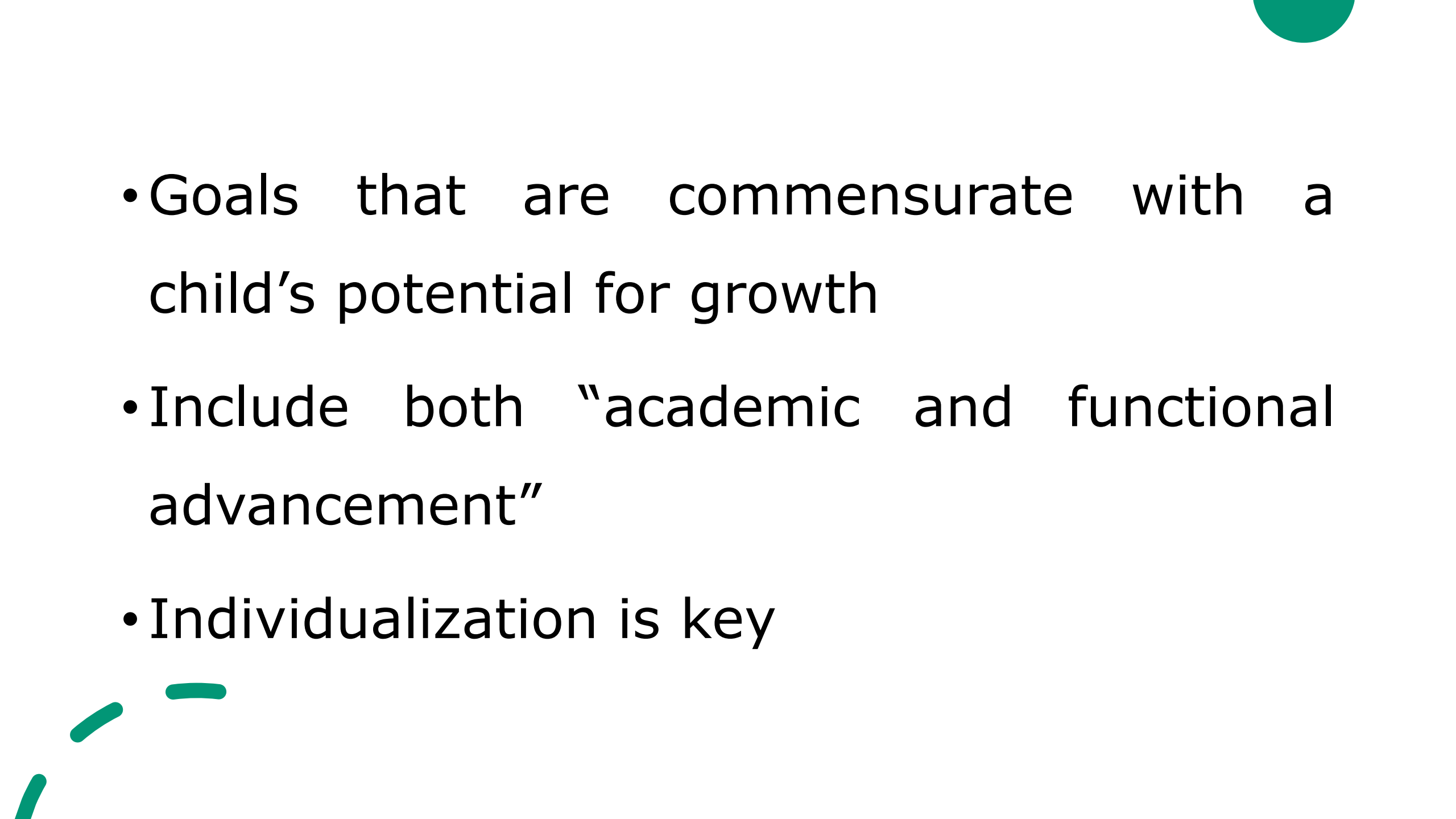
de minimis


trivial or minor




IEP must be “reasonably calculated to enable a child to make progress appropriate in light of the child’s circumstances.”




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- Goals that are commensurate with a child's potential for growth
 - Include both "academic and functional advancement"
 - Individualization is key




Some children with disabilities will advance from grade to grade progressing smoothly through the general education curriculum.







For those who cannot, their educational programs must be "**appropriately ambitious.**"


Their "goals may differ, but every child should have the chance to meet **challenging objectives.**"






For students who can meet generally applicable standards but who have fallen behind, special education must be reasonably calculated to **help them catch up** -- may take months or years.

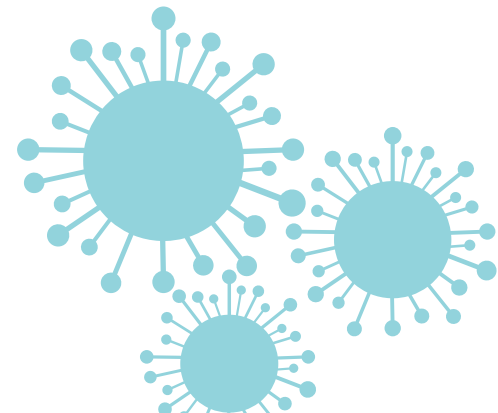







“When all is said and done, a student offered an educational program providing ‘merely more than *de minimis*’ [trivial or minor] progress from year to year can hardly be said to have been offered an education at all.”




Your child's right to a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) or Section 504, **DID NOT** disappear because of the COVID-19 pandemic.



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- Did your child miss out on learning opportunities during the pandemic?
 - Did your child not make progress or lose skills this year?
 - Does your child need any make-up or compensatory learning services to get back on track?



In Alabama, these make-up or compensatory learning services are called **COVID-19**
IMPACT SERVICES.




COVID-19 Impact Services

Put your child in the position your child would have been if the pandemic had not disrupted the school year and the school could have provided services as outlined in your child's IEP/504 Plan.



Extended School Year Services (ESY)

- Prevent regression that'll be hard to make up
 - Keep skill momentum going
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Compensatory Education / COVID-19 Impact Services

- Make up for lost learning opportunities and lack of progress/regression (denial of FAPE)



DOES YOUR CHILD
QUALIFY FOR
COVID-19 IMPACT
SERVICES?

Four Key Questions



1. IEP / 504 Plan Services Provided?


Were the supports and services listed in your child's plan being provided?





2. All Goals Addressed?

Were any of your child's IEP/504 goals put aside or not addressed during the pandemic, especially if your child was learning remotely?



3. Additional Supports Provided?


Some children needed additional supports to learn remotely. Was your child's plan revised to include any needed services or supports and were they provided? Or were your child's needs ignored or unaddressed?

4. Skill Loss?

- Was your child able to do schoolwork provided to him/her?
- Was your child struggling to learn?
- Did your child lose skills?
- Did your child not make progress?



COVID-19 Impact Services

- Your child's Team determines the services at an IEP/504 meeting
 - They should be written in your child's plan
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COVID-19 Impact Services

- Timing is up to the Team (including summer 2021 and school year and summer 2022)

COVID-19 Impact Services

- Are individualized to your child's needs (no one-size-fits-all programming)
- Not necessarily hour for hour, minute for minute

COVID-19 Impact Services

- Are available for all areas of need
(academic, behavioral, transition, etc.)
- Are available even to graduating/exiting students

ALSDE SES PPT

- ALSDE Memorandum

- <http://alabamaparentcenter.com/web/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/FY21-2046.pdf>

- ALSDE SES PPT on COVID Impact

- <http://alabamaparentcenter.com/web/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/COVID-19-Impact-Services-for-Students-with-Disabilities-1.pptx>