

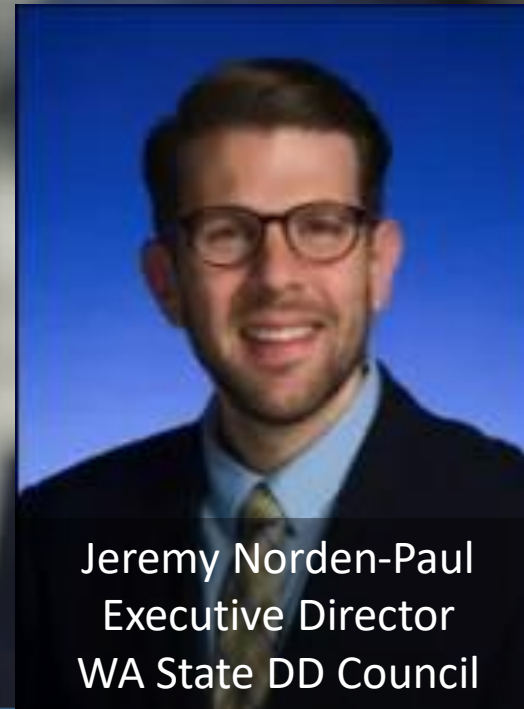
A Conversation with State Superintendent Chris Reykdal

Special Education During COVID-19

Hosted by The Arc of Washington State &
WA State Developmental Disabilities Council



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Executive Director
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Chris Reykdal
State Superintendent
of Public Instruction



Glenna Gallo
Asst. Superintendent
for Special Education



Students with Disabilities in Washington State

- 143,000 students with disabilities, ages 5-21
- Over 300 school districts, tribal schools and charter schools
- It is estimated that over 13.5% of all students have disabilities
- Only 57% of students with disabilities are included in general education settings for 80-100% of the school day
- Washington is currently one of the least inclusive states, ranking 44 out of 50
- Disciplinary rates of students with disabilities is 2.5 times higher than for students without disabilities
- Rates of Restraint and Isolation disproportionately affect students with disabilities
- 4 out of 10 students with disabilities report being bullied or harassed at school

Impact of COVID-19

Some students require specialized services:

- Speech therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, vision therapy, behavioral support, and communication support
- Assistive technology devices and instruction
- Specialized curriculum modifications and strategies to enhance attention, learning, and retention
- Environmental supports to engage in learning and progress

Students are at risk for regression and recoupment issues

Families Share

- 1) Adana Protonentis from Seattle**
- 2) Jennifer Lee from Spokane**
- 3) Maria Mendoza from Lake Stevens**
- 4) Rachel Nemhauser from Seattle**
- 5) Emilee Everett from Everett**

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Q&A

Impact of COVID-19

- Schools – There are no risk-free environments during a pandemic
- “Safer” Schools Follow safe procedures
- All Districts must have a plan 2 weeks prior to starting that follow DOH guidelines
- IEP v Continuous Learning Plan – Districts must follow IEPs beginning this Fall
- FAPE is the standard – Measurable progress
- Case by case basis – students may receive in person instruction
- IEP Team is the KEY

COVID-19 Resources

- Parent Guide – *Summary of Reopening Washington Schools 2020: Special Education Guidance*
https://www.k12.wa.us/sites/default/files/public/specialed/pubdocs/Summary_Reopening_WA_Schools_SpEd_Guidance.pdf
- *Reopening Washington Schools 2020: Special Education Guidance*
<https://www.k12.wa.us/sites/default/files/public/specialed/pubdocs/Reopening-WA-Schools-2020-SpEd-Guidance.pdf>
- OSPI website – Special Education Guidance for COVID-19:
<https://www.k12.wa.us/about-ospi/press-releases/novel-coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-resources/special-education-guidance-covid-19>

What If I Need Help??

- The Office of the Education Ombuds: <https://www.oeo.wa.gov/en>
- OSPI Special Education Parent Liaison: <https://www.k12.wa.us/student-success/special-education/guidance-families-special-education-washington-state/need-assistance>
- Sound Options Mediation: <http://somtgc.com/our-services/conflict-engagement/mediation/>

Formal Complaints

- Filing an OSPI Citizen's Complaint: <https://www.k12.wa.us/student-success/special-education/dispute-resolution/file-citizen-complaint>
- OSPI Office of Equity and Civil Rights: <https://www.k12.wa.us/policy-funding/equity-and-civil-rights>
- Office for Civil Rights, Region 10 (covers Alaska, American Samoa, Guam, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Washington and the Northern Mariana Islands)

Office for Civil Rights, ***Seattle Office***
U.S. Department of Education
915 Second Avenue, Room 3310
Seattle, WA 98174-1099

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