

Policy and procedure for distance learning, home schooling, and other educational situations that normally take place within the educational system including, but not limited to, K-12 and college courses.

This is a policy for staff that work with school-aged children or adults in transition programs, college programs, or other programs that are set out of the home who receive home care services, personal care assistance (PCA) services, or waiver services (including, but not limited to, Respite, ILS, IHFS, Personal supports) and their families. The purpose is to guide staff interactions with families and clients to ensure people's disability-related needs are met but staff is not a replacement for a parent, a teacher, or a para support aide for educational supports.

POLICY: Staff is not allowed to do any educational supports for any client that has not been assessed for those supports and a plan with goals is set in place.

The staff should:

- Review the current supports, goals, care plan. and IAPP for what is allowed per care plan in the homework section. This section is limited to behavioral concerns, safety concerns, and specific interventions allowed by state guidance.
 - Note: While this is written for families and staff, it applies to all services, including services for children or young adults who live in residential settings, foster care, day treatment, and In or out of home respite.

PROCEDURE: If staff is requested to perform a service that is not on the care plan, they should follow the steps below.

Contact the office for instruction; the office can assist with the following:

- Contacting the Special Education case manager: Consider the services that are the responsibility of the school and outlined in the IEP or 504 plans, including options for support during distance learning; encourage parents to request an IEP team meeting to discuss school support options during distance learning
- Give family further information on the rules and regs for home care, PCA, and waiver programs (including CDCS): The staff can always support the client's non-educational needs, regardless of whether distance learning is occurring (e.g., support for toileting, eating or transferring)
- Identify the child's disability-related needs that can be serviced while staff is in the home and request a service care plan update if needed.

Per the State of MN:

- Waiver and state plan services cannot be used to support distance learning, educational needs, home-schooling, non-age-appropriate support, or childcare
- The result of the child's assessment (i.e., CDCS budget and PCA eligibility) is not dependent on the child being in school.
- Parental responsibility and age-appropriate support is required for all parents.
- Waiver and state plan services (including CDCS, home care, respite, PCA services, etc.) cannot be used to support distance learning, educational needs, home-schooling, non-age-appropriate support, or childcare no matter if COVID related or not.
- The definition of covered services has not changed, and it is still a requirement that services address the child's assessed need(s) per care plan and assessments.