

Lisa Cataldi

From: Bucka, Nicole <buckan@ri-rti.org>
Sent: Wednesday, June 3, 2020 2:01 PM
To: Lisa Cataldi
Subject: Remote Learning Distance Testimony

Hello, I am writing today to offer my family's experience with remote learning. My two children have IEPs for significant disabilities that are supposed to be protected by IDEA and RI state regulations governing students with disabilities.

Remote learning has been an utter failure for my children. Their IEPs have in no way been followed. Both have 1:1 behavior support personnel in their IEP which were laid off on March 13th and never provided remotely - not even now. My son, who is in general education most of his day had an overwhelming, unaccommodated amount of instruction with every teacher doing every step differently forcing him (a child who needs consistency and struggles with executive functioning) to break down in tears over frustration. The IEP goals? It took us weeks to even get one worked on a little.

My youngest son is nonverbal and intellectually disabled. For a variety of complex reasons, he has received zero instruction or OT, APE, Speech since March 13th. Also, our district opted for no face to face in ESY, so it will be a total of 6 months with no services.

In addition, thanks to budget cut fears from the state and local level, our district is propose cuts/layoffs of 11 staff, 6 of whom are special education and related staff - even while so much compensatory services are yet undetermined.

Remote learning has been a failure for my children and the gross inequities this has produced must be addressed in the coming months because we can't do this again in the fall.

Thank you,
Nicole Bucka
Mother