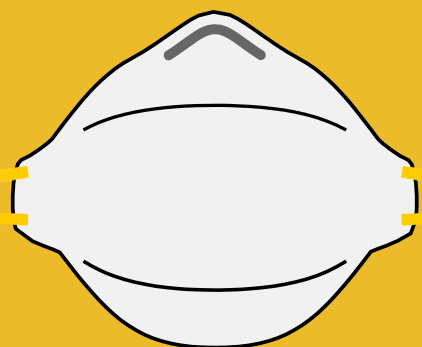


The Ari Advocacy Center

a COVID-19 Response

For students receiving special education services the COVID-19 pandemic caused a complete interruption of services at school and at home (for those who relied upon community-based services). As districts worked to provide clear and uniform communications about their response strategy to altered education settings, most students with Individualized Education Plans experienced a loss of services and instructional time during the pandemic. Additionally, remote learning may have been hindered due to a lack of access to the internet and/or assistive technology. The Ari Center provided student and family advocacy services as well as a series of live webinars to address the questions and concerns of the greater community. While it was all hands-on deck to support families in mediating academic decline, the COVID-19 pandemic forced districts to be more accommodating of a broader range of individualized approaches to academic instruction and we found that there was a population of students for whom remote learning worked extremely well. This came as no surprise to our team. We anticipate that the next step will be to provide support for those students who prefer and thrive in remote learning environments when most students return to school buildings.

Highlights of The Ari Center's Response to the Covid-19 Pandemic Include:



- ❖ COVID-19 & Special Education Rights & Options (Webinar)
- ❖ COVID-19 & Digital Access (Webinar)
- ❖ COVID-19 What Families Say They Need (Webinar)
- ❖ Member of Durham Public Schools Exceptional Children's planning committee with D-SNAC, NC Legal Aid
- ❖ Community N-95 Mask Giveaway with the Durham Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi, Inc.
- ❖ Community N-95 Mask Giveaway with Lend a Hand Ministries (Perquimans County)
- ❖ Student & Family Advocacy Services