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**The LD Source**

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As 2020 comes to a close, LDA would like to wish its members, partners and other industry professionals a safe and happy holiday season. As we reflect on the past year for the industry, we would like to provide the readers of The LD Source, a look at the most accessed articles from the year. Our regular publication will resume Thursday, Jan. 7.

## IN THE NEWS

### **Administration offers guidance to schools as they shut down on their own**

The New York Times

**From March 19:** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention advised schools that closings for at least eight weeks might be the most effective way to contain the coronavirus. The Education Department released school districts from a

slew of testing and accountability measures required by federal law. But schools across the country were far ahead of the Trump administration's advice. A cascade of public school closings gained speed nationwide, with the largest school district in California, the Los Angeles Unified School District, announcing it was closing, along with the San Diego Unified School District. They joined other large cities like Washington, Miami and Seattle, and more than a dozen states like Virginia, Ohio, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Oregon, New Mexico and Michigan.

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- [Psychological Tele-Assessment During COVID-19: Ethical & Practical Considerations featuring Jordan Wright, PhD](#)
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## States to schools: Teach reading the right way

Education Week

**From Feb. 27:** Worried that far too many students have weak reading skills, states are passing new laws that require aspiring teachers — and, increasingly, teachers who are already in the classroom — to master reading instruction that's solidly grounded in research. In the past three years alone, at least 11 states have enacted laws designed to expand evidence-based reading instruction in grades K-3. Legislative analysts and activists who monitor the issue have noticed a flurry of recent state action on it.

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## 5 ways to help students with disabilities who struggle with online learning

District Administration Magazine

**From Oct. 22:** The change from learning in person to learning remotely has had an impact on all students, but that impact may be greater for students with disabilities. Educators to consider taking the following steps if they notice a student struggling with remote instruction.

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## What the coronavirus means for IEPs this year

Disability Scoop

**From Aug. 27:** As a school year like no other gets underway, the laws surrounding individualized education programs remain unchanged and experts say parents should fight for the services their kids need. While the details may look different — with IEP meetings occurring virtually rather than in person, for example — special education advocates and attorneys say that families should approach the IEP process much like they would in any other year.

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## Schools struggle to educate students with disabilities amid pandemic

U.S. News & World Report

**From April 23:** Setting up distance learning for the 55 million students who were forced out of school by the coronavirus pandemic is a challenge, but it's even more of a challenge for educators to figure out how to best educate the 7 million students with disabilities. And those students, who are less likely to be able to access online education, are also at much greater risk of falling behind.

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## For children with special needs, unprecedented coronavirus school closures bring confusion, uncertainty

The 74

**From March 26:** Since a school district in suburban Seattle closed as the coronavirus pandemic intensified, Jen Cole has worried that her 9-year-old son Gabriel, who has a developmental disability, could regress. During previous summer breaks, the Mukilteo School District provided an extended school year to Gabriel, a second-grader with atypical William's Syndrome who receives special education services that include tailored instruction, occupational therapy and speech language therapy. When campuses shuttered last week, the Mukilteo superintendent told parents that schools could go dark for "weeks to months."

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## California issues rules for opening schools to high-needs students

EdSource

**From Sept. 3:** The California Department of Public Health published rules for opening school campuses to small numbers of students with disabilities and other students who need in-person support and services that can't be met through distance learning. Gov. Gavin Newsom and Linda Darling-Hammond, president of the State Board of Education, announced weeks

ago the policy for opening up schools to students with "acute" needs, even in counties where all districts are closed because of high incidences of the coronavirus.

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## Study shows major learning loss for grades K-2

eSchool News

**From Oct. 1:** Students will likely experience 2 to 4 months of learning loss as a result of COVID-19 disruptions, especially in grades K-2, according to a new report. The findings from Illuminate Education highlight a need for additional instructional support this fall. "The data are telling us what we already suspected: this fall, educators need to be ready to use the appropriate tools to identify and contend with student learning loss, particularly in grades K-2," said Dr. John Bielinski, Illuminate Education's senior director of research and development.

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## Educators get creative to serve students with disabilities

NPR

**From April 23:** Despite cranky computers, conflicting schedules, shaky Internet connections and stubborn software glitches, Danielle Kovach got her whole class together a few Fridays ago for a video chat. Kovach teaches special education in Hopatcong, N.J., and this Friday class session was a celebration: They'd made it through the first few weeks of distance learning. Throughout those weeks, she'd maintained her 8:30 a.m. morning meeting over the computer, she was adhering to each student's IEP, or Individualized Education Plan, and juggling new lessons with old routines, as she adapted to the coronavirus crisis. She was exhausted.

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## What schools will look like when they reopen: Scheduled days home, more online learning, lots of hand-washing

USA Today

**From May 7:** Imagine, for a moment, American children returning to school this fall. The school week looks vastly different, with most students attending school two or three days a week and doing the rest of their learning at home. At school, desks are spaced apart to discourage touching. Some classrooms extend into unused gymnasiums, libraries or art rooms — left vacant while schools put on hold activities that cram lots of children together.

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### The LD Source

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Dennis Hall, Director of Publishing, MultiView, 469-420-2656 | [Download media kit](#)  
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