Online learning—where students complete coursework partially or wholly via the Internet and web-based resources—holds promise to prepare children for postsecondary education and workplace opportunities. This promise comes alongside national policy shifts towards school choice as well as an interest in preserving the rights of students served under the Individuals with Disabilities Act. While online learning has the potential to provide unprecedented opportunities for students with disabilities, efforts to realize those opportunities and new directives from the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services have revealed gaps in guidance and support. The purpose of this poster is to highlight key ideas for state leaders of online and special education to consider as they address the needs of SWDs in these new environments. These ideas emerge as a series of findings about state policies across the United States for online learning as revealed through scan and survey research techniques.

Presenters: Mary Rice and Kelsey Ortiz