

## Special Education Covid FAQ

**Updated: 8/11/2020** 

## **Places and Spaces**

Will students be allowed to transition to and from classrooms? If so, how will they be supported with this?	At this point, students may transition to and from the general and special education rooms to receive the instruction reflected in their IEPs. For some students, IEP teams may want to discuss how we may limit the transitions even further.
Will sensory spaces be available?	<ul> <li>Try to accommodate in the classrooms</li> <li>Have individual materials for students</li> <li>Develop cleaning schedule/procedures         <ul> <li>This may involve meeting with your principal and building custodial staff members</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

#### **Equipment and Materials**

What protective gear will be provided to staff working with students with special needs?	Staff will be provided:  • Face mask to be worn while working with students if they do not have their own face covering  • Face shields and individual partitions to assist in respiratory droplet containment as needed when physical distance can not be maintained  • Hand sanitizer, disinfectant spray and paper towels
	Gloves when necessary for personal cares

### **Staff and Structures Related**

How will planning occur amongst staff?	Whenever possible, it will be encouraged for staff to plan virtually. If meeting in person, masks should be worn at all times and physical distancing maintained
What will Early Childhood look like?	The Early Childhood team will provide virtual or face to face instruction based according to the IEP based on the family preference.
Will caseloads be reassigned based on students choosing to be in person versus at home?	There may need to be some realignment based on students who choose to be on campus versus distance learning. We will know which students are on campus versus distance learning by August 17th.

How will co-serving look with in-person instruction?	Our goal is to continue providing students the services listed in their IEP, while also minimizing the amount of interaction amongst teachers and students. Right now, teams of teachers at each building are discussing ways to deliver services with these considerations in mind. When co-serving, ensure both teachers are wearing masks and face shields. Take precautionary measures in regard to hand-washing/sanitizing. Finally, discuss other proactive considerations as you plan with your grade level and content teams. In addition, some students may receive a combination of in person (less than 15 minutes in duration) and virtual instruction while in the school environment.
Will staff be able to work with multiple students in different classrooms as in the past? Will staff	To reduce traffic patterns of adults in spaces, teams will work to cohort students. Teams will co-plan to meet the individual needs of students, then provide services in

increments of 15 minutes or less to reduce exposure.

## **Student Support Related**

be going in and out of classrooms?

How will staff work with students who have 100% support needs?	<ul> <li>Similar to above and:</li> <li>Where/when possible, allow social distancing</li> <li>When staff are 1:1 and &lt;6 feet apart, a face shield and mask shall be worn for the duration of time working with the student.</li> <li>Additionally, partitions shall be considered depending on the instructional scenario.</li> </ul>
What if I am working with a student who has high oral sensory needs?	<ul> <li>Staff shall wear a mask with a face shield while working with the student.</li> <li>Utilize cleaning protocols</li> <li>Maintain proper handwashing in the moment; may need to walkie for support</li> <li>Clean surfaces after working with the student.</li> </ul>
What about students with hearing loss?	Staff that work with students who have hearing loss shall be provided with alternatives face coverings to allow for access to communication
What if a student is too medically fragile to attend school?	If your child cannot attend school due to medical needs please reach out to your IEP teams, including our district nurse, should meet with the

	family prior to the start of the school year to discuss options such as:  o Distance learning o Materials being sent home o Accessing "walk-in" therapies in our schools
Do you foresee students being pulled to work with their assigned para in special education rooms more frequently than receiving para support in their classroom?	Where students will receive their educational services will still depend on what the IEP team decides.
What will the virtual service delivery model look like?	If a family chooses virtual instruction, the IEP team will convene to create a distance learning plan that outlines services required to access instruction.

## **Training, Protocols, & Meetings**

Will IEPs be held virtually or in-person?	We will continue to hold IEPs virtually through the month of September. At that time we will reevaluate this.
What about evaluations from the spring or for student move-ins this fall?	The IEP team will communicate regarding deferred evaluations from Spring, 2020.

# **Transportation**

Are students required to wear	The bus drivers are required to wear masks as well as
masks on the bus?	students, unless they have a medical exemption.