



July 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian,

On behalf of Franklin Special School District, we want to express our deep commitment to the well-being and safety of you and your family during this ongoing pandemic. FSSD is working diligently to provide continuity of learning for your child during the start of the 2020-21 school year. When normal school resumes, FSSD will conduct a review of educational impact of these unique circumstances and determine appropriate next steps to address your child's needs.

We know many of you may have questions about the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on your child's education, including the supports and services provided through your child's Individual Education Program (IEP or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act (Section 504) Plan. We are working to provide answers considering the fluidity of the situation.

For parents of students with disabilities opting for virtual learning, we will be developing a Contingency Plan. The Contingency plan will identify how FSSD intends to implement the services and supports outlined in your child's IEP or Section 504 Plan during virtual learning. FSSD may utilize a combination of remote learning systems and student instructional packets. We will also work to provide virtual related services, computer-based academic interventions, and learning supports to the extent possible, given the circumstances.

Thank you again for your consistent support of your child's education. We look forward to continuing our partnership as we work to ensure that all students have access to instruction. If you have questions regarding the services for your child, please contact the building principal or the Special Populations Supervisor at [robeych@fssd.org](mailto:robeych@fssd.org).

You may also wish to consult the guidance that the U.S. Department of Education and the TN Department of Education have shared with districts.



## **Special Populations Return to Learn 2020 Frequently Asked Questions**

### ***How will IEPs/504 Plans be implemented in a virtual or in person environment?***

All students will have equitable access to core content provided by teachers. Grade level teams are working to provide materials and supports that are differentiated and focused on meeting each student's needs. Teachers and related service providers will begin supporting access to core content and interventions as well as related services at the start of the school year.

### ***Will paraprofessionals or teachers be allowed to support students in their home environments for virtual learning?***

FSSD will be using the Zoom platform to interact with students. At this time, FSSD employees will not be entering individual's homes. This is for the safety of our employees and our families. Paraprofessionals will continue to support students and the classroom remotely.

Paraprofessionals may support students in a variety of ways through virtual learning; alongside teachers during instruction, individual or small group instruction as directed by the teacher, check-in/checkouts with you or your child using your preferred method communication method. Paraprofessionals providing behavior supports will work closely with you to help implement behavior strategies. Any supports from paraprofessionals during virtual learning will be documented in the Contingency Plan.

### ***How will Speech and OT, PT and other related services be provided with online instruction?***

Related services will be provided using the Zoom platform.

***If a student or family member has an issue with the implementation of the student's IEP, who should the student or parent contact to discuss this issue?***

The family should contact their child's school principal and special education teacher to discuss their concern. If there are additional concerns that have not been resolved, please contact Dr. Cheryl Robey at [robeych@fssd.org](mailto:robeych@fssd.org).

***Will students receive supplies, materials and equipment to address IEP goals?***

If there are not safety concerns regarding the use of supplies, materials, or equipment, the items stated on your child's IEP will be available to your child.

***How will FSSD conduct IEP or 504 Meetings?***

FSSD will conduct virtual and or in-person meetings (*practicing social distancing*) based on parent preferences and availability.

***How will FSSD address regression from school closure?***

Unfortunately, most students likely experienced regression during the extended closure. Regression is the decline in knowledge or skills due to an interruption in education, recoupment is the time it takes to regain skills to prior level of functioning.

Once the school year begins, FSSD will assess the impact the extended closure had on the learning of all students. Remediation of regression is complex and requires time and resources. Decision regarding regression and recoupment are determined individually and must be based on empirical, qualitative, and predictive data.

While implementing your child's IEP, we will also be gathering data to make these determinations. Any compensatory services will need to be considered on an individualized basis with the IEP team after students have been back in school.