

Information Session for Special Education

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We are dedicated to providing a free and appropriate public education (FAPE) for our students, consistent with the need to protect the health and safety of our students with disabilities and those who are providing education, specialized instruction and related services to these students.

General Information

- Students will receive all services documented in their Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) through in-person instruction, remote instruction, or a combination of both
- Services, both teacher-directed and independent, will consist of regularly scheduled and consistent classes, interventions, services and therapies
- Inclusion and Co-Teaching will look different than it has in the past. **For the safety of all, we must reduce the need for staff to move between several classroom locations**

QUESTIONS



DESE Guidance

“Students with disabilities, particularly preschool-age students and those with significant and complex needs, should be prioritized for receiving in-person instruction during the 2020-2021 school year. “

“These students should receive as much in-person instruction as is feasible within the health and safety parameters in effect at each particular time.”

What cohort will my child be assigned to?

- Students who receive most of their instruction in a co-teaching or inclusion classroom will attend school in person as their typical classmates do (Cohort A and Cohort B).
- Students who receive more than 25% of their academic instruction in a pullout model will attend school in person four days per week, the 5th day being remote instruction (Cohort C)
- Students who receive most of their instruction (over 75% of their day) in a substantially separate classroom will attend school in person four and one half days (Cohort D)

When will my child start school?

**STUDENTS WILL BEGIN SCHOOL
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16**

Cohorts A,B - start the school year remote

Cohort C - starts the school year remote

Cohort D – starts the school year face to face

Preschool-starts the school year remote

When will I know my child's schedule of special education services?

- Parents can expect special education liaisons to communicate within the first 2 weeks of September
- They will share information as to *how* and *when* your child's special education services will be provided
- Opportunity to discuss any questions or concerns
- Parents will receive written notice of the specific information at the beginning of the school year

How will my child receive related services (Speech, OT, PT, Counseling)?

- Cohort A, B and C students will receive these services through teletherapy via Zoom
- Teletherapy sessions will mostly occur during the student's remote learning days
- Cohort D will receive these services in person
- Students will have a set schedule that follows their IEP service delivery grid

How will my child receive special education services during the *hybrid* model?

- Cohort A/B students will receive instruction/support during their in person days from a special educator via Zoom, an instructional assistant, or an academic support class (MS/HS)
- During remote learning days, Cohort A/B will receive small group, targeted instruction from a special educator or instructional assistant via Zoom
- Cohort C and D will receive direct instruction and academic work from a special educator or IA during their in person and remote learning days
- Students will have opportunities to join their grade level peers for specials and classroom lessons/activities via Zoom

How will my child receive special education services during the *fully remote* model?

- Students will be assigned to a special educator who will be responsible for addressing their goals and objectives while adhering to the IEP service delivery grid
- Academic goals will be addressed during direct instruction in small group daily via Zoom
- Students will receive their accommodations and modifications when participating in a general education classes
- Related service providers will provide teletherapy via Zoom
- Students will have opportunities to join their grade level peers virtually for specials

Inclusive opportunities will continue for students with disabilities. Using technology will help to support peer-to-peer connections while maintaining physical distancing requirements. Students with disabilities will be provided opportunities to participate virtually with their grade-level peers.

What if my child has difficulty wearing a mask?

- Students will be expected to wear face masks during the school day and will be provided with scheduled mask breaks
- Mask breaks will happen during the day when the student can safely social distance (6 feet) from others
- If a child has difficulty wearing a mask or refuses to wear a mask, we will work with them carefully and slowly to help them adapt
- We encourage you to begin this work with your child, if you haven't done so already

What will bus transportation look like when students return to school?

Following transportation guidance given by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) both regular school buses along with special transportation required by a student's IEP will be available.

- Bus capacity will be limited
- Students will be seated *no more than* one student per bench, alternating sides for each row
- Windows will be kept open at all times during operation, unless not possible due to extreme weather conditions
- There may be some flexibility needed on arrivals and departures

What will lunch look like when students return to school?

- Bryn Mawr, Pakachoag and Swanson Road students will have their lunches delivered to classrooms
- Auburn Middle School students will pick up their lunches to eat at a designated location
- Auburn High School students will pick up their lunches as they leave for the day. Cohort D students' lunches will be delivered to their classroom
- Preschool students that attend full day will have their lunches delivered

Will my child receive their accommodations when in person at school?

Students with IEP accommodations as well as those on 504 Plans will receive their accommodations when working both in person and remotely

- Sensory breaks
- Fidgets
- Graphic Organizers
- Extra time to complete work
- Others

If my child requires support closer than 6 feet, how will this be provided?

Staff will be prepared to provide assistance, with the proper PPE, for

- Activities of daily living for those students whose IEPs or Individualized Health Care Plans (IHCP) require it
- Students who require hand over hand assistance
- Students who require physical guidance

How will progress be measured?

- Special educators and service providers will identify the types of data that can be collected from the student, family, and home environment during hybrid and remote learning
- Staff may use a tracking sheet to collect data from student videos, interviewing parents and students, or using assessments
- Data will be analyzed regularly to inform any instruction and to measure progress toward mastery of IEP goals

Will transition/community based programs be able to be held for our older students?

- At this time job sites and community based programming may be limited
- Mrs. Quirion, the district's Transition Coordinator/Vocational Coach is in frequent contact with our community based partners to develop plans for students to access as much transition programming as possible, following the required safety and health requirements.
- We are working within the district to look at providing transition programming and vocational tasks in house, following all required safety and health requirements

How will IEP, 504 or Progress Meetings be held?

- Meetings will continue to be held virtually to reduce foot traffic in the schools and limit social contact
- Parents may continue to respond to IEPs and 504s electronically, stating their consent.
- For those students whose initial evaluations or three-year reevaluations were interrupted due to the closure in March, the team chair will be contacting you to set these up
- Any three-year reevaluations due this school year will proceed as usual with testing being administered in person or virtually

**Additional
questions?**

