

We Have a Plan
to Keep Our
Students and
Community Safe



EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT EDUCATION FAQ

REOPENING PLAN 2020

Read our FAQ at detroitk12.org/returntoschool
Questions? Email us at info.reopen@detroitk12.org

Exceptional Student Education

Question: What will ESE academics look like considering time constraints?

Answer 1: The case manager will modify instructional times during the school day to accommodate students with specific educational needs, in addition, office hours will be made available to offer an additional layer of support to discuss content and materials. The department is also considering embedded online lessons onto devices in addition to ESE YouTube, assistive and instructional technology and videos, printed materials, etc.

Answer 2: The ESE Department is designing Schedule Templates based on the identified curriculum utilized in each program. These schedules will be designed to support students and teachers with implementing a structured schedule based on the designated curriculum and the needs of each individual student.

Question: What if I am working and I cannot attend the scheduled online session with my student?

Answer: The case manager will schedule a time to collaborate and consult with the parent/guardian to discuss other options for delivering instruction. Individualized times to meet will be determined independently within the normal school instructional hours. The Learning Management System (LMS) is Schoology which will allow families to receive instruction in multiple platforms.

Question: What if I need technical support?

Answer: Technical support depends on the level of support needed. Locating usernames and passwords can be resolved at the school level. However, additional issues can be addressed with the student's case manager, who will work with technical support to resolve the issue.

Question: Will my child receive online instruction with other students?

Answer: The case manager will determine how students will receive instruction based on the specific needs outlined in the Individual Education Program (IEP). This determination consists of collaboration with parents and district personnel.

Question: Will I have an option for an online IEP/IFSP meeting?

Answer: Yes. Opportunities will be made for families and parents to engage in IEP/IFSP meetings online.

Question: How will ancillary services be provided if students are not participating in face-to-face learning?

Answer: All students will receive services as identified in their IEP/IFSP to ensure their access, progress and development. These supports will be provided online for all enrolled students.

Question: If I decide to keep my child home for online learning, will a tablet be provided, or will I need to purchase a tablet or computer?

Answer: All students K-12 (including ESE), enrolled in DPSCD during February count will receive a laptop. Newly enrolled students who are enrolled through the October 2020 count will receive a device at that time <https://www.detroitk12.org/connectedfutures>.

Question: Is a case manager only available or provided if your child has online services?

Answer: No. All ESE students have a case manager who is a licensed teacher or related service provider who is a member of the IEP/IFSP team and is responsible to coordinate instruction and related services for the ESE student.

Question: What will transportation look like for my child?

Answer: DPSCD has taken the following precautions, based on the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention guidelines, to ensure safe transport of students. This includes increase social distancing, added partitions, increased sanitization of all equipment, improved universal precaution training for students and staff who are transported via bus and cab.

Question: Will my children be able to sit together on the bus?

Answer: Students from the same household will be able to sit together on the same seat.

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Question: Will staff members still be assigned to buses for students with severe needs?

Answer: Appropriate personnel will be assigned to each bus and will practice social distancing and follow all CDC and district guidelines.

Question: How many students will be allowed to ride on a bus?

Answer: While transportation will be provided for eligible students, the number of students per bus will be limited.

Question: What transportation precautions will be taken for ESE students?

Answer: Daily sanitization and cleaning will occur before and after each use with specific concentration in high touch areas. Students and staff are required to wear masks and social distancing will continue in accordance with CDC and District guidelines.

Question: How will I know which route my student will be taking since there will be limited students per bus?

Answer: Routes are still being determined based on enrollment and eligibility for the 2020-2021 school-year.

Question: How will teachers manage in person and online instruction at the same time

Answer: The District is working toward options for students to watch instruction from the assigned teacher (when appropriate). This ensures continuity of instruction. All considerations regarding FERPA and HIPPA will be in place.

Question: What if my student becomes ill (at school) while I am working and I'm unable to attend the scheduled online sessions with my student?

Answer: The case manager will schedule a time to collaborate and consult with the parent/guardian to discuss other options for delivering instruction. Individualized times to meet will be determined

independently within the normal school instructional hours. The Learning Management System (LMS) is Schoology, which will allow families to receive instruction in multiple platforms.

Question: Will there be any additional times for teachers to teach students if parents work throughout the day?

Answer: The homework hotline will be available; however, it would not be the same instruction as a student would receive from a regular teacher.

Question: What happens if I chose online learning, but I now want my child to return to in-person learning?

Answer: All families can select options quarterly as needs shift.

Question: Given the Executive Order limiting the amount of people in a particular area, will there continue to be options for remote IEP/IFSP meetings?

Answer: Yes. DPSCD is committed to ensuring parents and guardians are part of the IEP Team (IEPT) process and will work with all IEPT members on an individualized basis to ensure all relevant stakeholders have the opportunity to participate in the IEPT meeting.

Question: What will happen if my student with severe needs is unable to wear a mask due to personal/medical needs?

Answer: Preemptive accommodations will be made with families and students to ensure all accommodating universal practices can be made for the safety of students and staff. We will follow CDC and District guidelines which may include increased PPE, enhanced spacing, use of partitions, barriers or other methods. Additional measures will be implemented as appropriate.

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Question: How will students be kept safe during lunch time as masks need to be removed when eating?

Answer: We understand lunch provides an opportunity to provide social support and increased social skills training. Increased spacing, social distancing and minimized traffic routes in common spaces in adherence to CDC and District guidelines. Use of PPE and other accommodating supports will be implemented. In separate facilities, ESE aides/paraprofessionals provide critical support for ESE students and will receive additional training on universal precautions, sanitization, and overall health and safety. Available spacing will be maximized.

Question: With cases rising in Wayne County, specifically Detroit, at what point will all classes become online instruction?

Answer: We will follow all State and District mandated guidance around opening of schools.

Question: If my student is engaged in online learning while other students are in-person, will the IEP/IFSP related services still occur online (Occupational Therapy, Speech Therapy, Physical Therapy, etc.)?

Answer: All students will receive services as identified in their IEP/IFSP to ensure their access, progress and development. Staff have been trained regarding teleservices and tele-evaluation processes in alignment with State and professional guidance. These supports will be provided for all *enrolled* students.

Question: What safety measures are in place for my ESE student in a regular K-12 school?

Answer: All schools and programs will follow the District's guidance which follows all governing State guidance. For programs where necessary, increased sanitization and PPE will be available to all staff and students.

Question: In terms of EIDC students, what will learning look like when we return to the class environment?

Answer: We will follow the guidelines of the District to make sure all students receive the appropriate learning outlined in their Individual Family Service Plan.

Q: Will Work Skills students be going to job sites?

Answer: Please contact Drew Center for more information regarding the Work Skills Program @ 313-873-6880.

Question: What system will be used for parents to report their children well-check prior to coming to school?

Answer: DPSCD will provide a link that is connected directly to the school (similar to the one currently used for staff), or a Daily Communication log will be used for parent and school to record responses.

Question: Are ESE students starting later than the general education students and are we shortening the amount of school time?

Answer: No. As of right now, if school opens as planned, all students will begin on September 8, 2020. The school start and end time will vary by individual school sites. ESE students time in school is aligned with the State requirements of 6 hours per day. Both virtual and in-person schedules will follow the same bell schedule. Online teachers are expected to provide live, daily instruction to their students following the same bell schedule as their F2F peers.

Question: Will students be tested on a daily basis in Face to Face learning and why are they not being tested prior to start of school in September 2020?

Answer: No. Parents can have their child tested, but the District is not required to provide COVID-19 Testing to students. The summer COVID Testing was due to Judge's order and no longer applies. All staff and contractors will be required to receive a negative COVID test prior to returning to work. All staff and students will complete daily temperature and symptom checks.

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Question: What will an ESE classroom size look like for students with special-needs?

Answer: DPSCD follows all CDC, District and State/ County guidelines for classroom size requirements. Limited class sizes to allow for physical and social distance will be followed.

Question: When is the official start date for teachers?

Answer: August 31st is the official return date for teachers, and you will be able to return to your classroom then. You are encouraged to participate in the paid, online professional development opportunities starting on August 25th. Reach out to your principal for additional questions about classroom set up as needed.

Question: Do teachers have the option to do online only or do they have to do face to face?

Answer: Yes, teachers have received a survey to indicate their preference in teaching online or face-to-face. Teachers can also express their preference to their building administrator.

Question: How will we handle subs? Often subs are not available, and classes have to be combined. How will that work?

Answer: At this point, classes will not be combined. Based on the amount of student families who requested Face to Face learning (about 21%), we will have enough subs for in-person instruction. Substitute teachers will also be provided for Online learning, as needed. Day to day and Long-term subs will be assigned per building.

Question: Will PPE be provided for staff and students?

Answer: The District will provide reusable masks to staff and students, as well as disposable masks. Hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes will be provided to classrooms. Additional PPE materials will be available for specialized staff, nurses, security guards, custodial staff.