

# Special Education During Remote Learning

**When the Denver Board of Education and Superintendent place all students on remote learning, DPS does not provide in-person Special Education services for any student in the district.** We always strive to provide services to our Special Education students to the greatest extent possible. Some students may qualify for opportunities to make up learning in the future through Compensatory Services.

## Individual Education Programs (IEPs)

Every Special Education student has an IEP team, which includes a case manager, the parent(s) or guardian(s) and a general education teacher, among others. IEP team members are selected to specifically meet the child's needs and can help parents navigate their child's support plans.

During remote learning, students will either receive their services under a virtual IEP or their contingency plan. If the family chose remote learning for the semester, the child will continue services in their virtual IEP. If the family chose in-person learning for the semester, then services are provided under a contingency plan developed by the IEP team at the beginning of the school year. ***Contingency plans cannot perfectly replicate in-person learning, but are designed to support the student to the greatest extent possible.***

Service providers (such as special education teachers, speech language, physical therapy, occupational therapy, and mental health providers) can offer services during remote learning via:

- One-on-one or small group services provided over the phone or through online video conferencing platforms like Google Meets.
- Inclusion services, such as working with the child in a virtual 'breakout room' or by co-teaching with the general education teacher.

## Supporting Individual Needs

**Mild/moderate needs students** typically are served by a general education teacher. The special education services in the child's IEP are designed to help the student access the general education materials.

**Center-based students might get their general education services from a special education teacher**, if the IEP team determined that is the most supportive approach for that student's learning.

**If a child is struggling with remote learning**, it is critical that parents/guardians let the IEP team know and work with them to problem-solve possible solutions. For example, a paraprofessional might be able to support a child with focus and paying attention during online classes.

## Compensatory Services Opportunities to Make Up Lost Learning

Not all students can receive a free and appropriate public education remotely. Some students may qualify for future services to make up for the learning they missed during this time. **School IEP teams will determine if a child is owed compensatory service when DPS returns to in-person learning.**

## Special Education Student and Family Resources

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| <b>Remote Learning Support Centers</b> | Some schools are able to offer remote learning support centers, when staffing permits. Reach out to your school for more information.<br><br>Discovery Link is offering <a href="#">Remote Learning Support camps</a> at a limited number of sites until winter break.  |
| <b>Respite Care</b>                    | Rocky Mountain Human Services <a href="#">Family Support Program</a> for eligible students age 3 to 18 provides funding to pay for a provider of your choice to care for the family member with a developmental disability, giving the parent/legal guardian a break from caregiving responsibilities.  |
| <b>Education Support</b>               | <a href="#">FACE University</a><br>Access family tips for curriculum with videos in literacy, math and education support.   |
| <b>Financial Support</b>               | <a href="#">FACE Centers</a><br>The Family and Community Engagement (FACE) Center is a community resource center that connects students, families and our community with free services to increase their economic self-sufficiency and academic success. All services and classes are free to community members 16 and older — not just DPS families. |
| <b>Frequently Asked Questions</b>      | See <a href="#">questions and answers for Special Education</a> during COVID-19 on the DPS website.   |

### Who Can Answer Individual Special Education Questions?

If you have questions about Special Education (SPED), the following team members are available to assist you:

| <b>School Staffing Chair</b>   | <b>Case Manager</b>  | <b>IEP Team</b>   | <b>School SPED Supervisor</b>   | <b>Special Education Instructional Specialist (SEIS)</b>   |
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| Your school's Staffing Chair can answer any questions about SPED and assign a Case Manager to the student if they do not have one yet. | Every student in SPED has a case manager, who serves as the single point of contact for their parents and manages SPED services for the student. | IEP team members can help parents/guardians navigate their child's support plans. | Contact the supervisor of SPED at your school if you don't find resolution from the Case Manager or the IEP team. | If you are not able to get the support you need from the case manager, IEP team or the SPED supervisor, please contact the SEIS. |

**To find who to contact with Special Education questions at your school, [click here](#).**