

Butler Public Schools
Reopening Plan Phase 1
Special Education Common Scenarios
Updated: August 21, 2020

COVID-19 presents an unprecedented set of challenges impacting each and every member of our District. This common scenarios document is intended to provide information for Butler parents/guardians, caretakers, and students so that we may navigate the 2020-2021 school year together while putting the safety and well-being of both our own families and the entire school community at the forefront of what we do.

Section 1: Academic Programming

1. Is my child's IEP still in effect or do they get the same program as everyone else?

- Yes, your child's IEP is still in effect. As always, our instruction and related services will be tailored to specifically meet your child's goals and objectives. In accordance with guidance from the federal Department of Education, we will continue to provide services to the greatest extent possible when operating in a virtual manner.

2. How do I know the plan for my child?

- Building principals have mailed home letters that specifically outline the plan for reopening school. Letters were placed in the mail on Friday, August 21st. Should you not receive the letter please contact the main office of your child's school.

3. How does my elementary special education child receive inclusion and socialization in the general education classroom under this model?

- At BHS, all 9 periods will meet over the course of the week. Students will continue to have inclusion and socialization opportunities within the periods when specific special education programming is not offered (PE, Lunch, Elective Courses). These opportunities will still be available in the virtual setting.
- At RBS, students will continue to have their same programmatic opportunities they have in the past. Students in inclusion settings will be with their general education peers, with support being provided by both special education teachers and content area teachers. Students will have the opportunity for socialization during physical education and special area related arts courses. These opportunities will still be available in the virtual setting.
- At ADS, special education teachers and staff members will continue to support students in the general education setting as indicated in the student's IEP. As always, special education teachers will collaborate with general education teachers to ensure effective delivery of the academics along with meeting the students' needs socially and emotionally. These opportunities will still be available in the virtual setting.

- 4. Does my child follow their grade level plan or their specific special education classrooms plan?**
 - Students in the In Class Resource setting will follow the plan set forth by the special education and general education teacher. Our special education teachers will continue to monitor progress and goals included in your child's IEP.
 - Students in the Pull Out Resource setting, LLD and MD setting will follow the plan set forth by your child's teacher.
 - If you ever have questions on which plan to follow, we suggest reaching out to your child's teacher(s) and case managers via email.

 - 5. My child does not respond to virtual learning, what do I do?**
 - We encourage families that feel they are in this situation to have this discussion with your child's teacher(s). It is important that we dive deeper into why your child is not responding to virtual instruction. We will work together to ensure your child is successful in both settings.

 - 6. My child does not have access to a computer or internet access in the home. How do they participate in virtual learning?**
 - Please let your child's case manager and building principal know if this is the case. We will work with individual families to help find solutions.

 - 7. Will the paraprofessionals be available for students in the virtual setting?**
 - Yes, if your child has a paraprofessional in their IEP they will be available for assistance. Our paraprofessionals will be both participating in classroom lessons and arranging individual appointments with students to ensure understanding.
 - We understand that when certain students are working virtual, they do not require a paraprofessional since it is a different environment. Please let the case manager know if that is the circumstance. The IEP will remain unaltered as it will always reflect a traditional school setting.

 - 8. Will the paraprofessionals be available for students in the in-person setting?**
 - Yes, if your child has a paraprofessional in their IEP they will be available for assistance. Our paraprofessionals will be both participating in classroom lessons and arranging individual appointments with students to ensure understanding.

 - 9. Are paraprofessionals allowed to touch and prompt my child? My child requires his hand being held for support and safety, will this occur?**
 - Yes, our paraprofessionals and teacher staff will still be able to touch and prompt your children. We have purchased appropriate PPE to ensure this is done in a safe manner for all involved.

 - 10. Can I change my child's program to one of the options that goes everyday?**
 - Special Education code does not allow our case managers or district leadership to move a child to a more restrictive program without data. Should you feel your child needs a more restrictive program, please let your child's case manager know. Our standard approach is to monitor your child's progress over the first 8-10 weeks of the year and then gauge if a more restive program is needed.
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Section 2: Related Services

11. How will my child receive related services?

- Related services will be delivered consistent with your child's IEP.
- Times for sessions will reflect our single session schedule. Therapists will also be providing at-home activities for students to prevent regression from taking place.
- Related services can either take place fully virtual or by appointment in your child's school.
- When you log into the Genesis Parent Portal, you will be asked if your child will participate either virtually or in person. We ask that you let us know as soon as possible so we can plan accordingly. If you would like to change your selection after submission, please let your child's case manager know via email.
- Regardless of the format you select, our providers will reach out with the time for your child. This will likely happen during the first week of school.
- Should you elect to set up an in-person appointment for related services, you will be required to transport your child.

12. How will my child receive speech with a mask on?

- The district has purchased clear - see through masks for students to wear during speech sessions. All students that receive speech will receive these masks at their first session.

13. How is the district going to recoup missed related services?

- The district does not expect being unable to deliver any services.
- For students that missed services last spring, the therapist will begin to assess your child once we return in September. Using available data, they will determine regression that took place and amount of lost growth due to services being unavailable. Using that information, they will work with your child's case manager to develop a plan to address the regression and lost growth. Case Managers will invite you to a meeting to amend the IEP, if needed.
- From time to time, our therapist may need to cancel sessions due to other professional commitments or them being unavailable on that day. We ask that you please remain flexible as making up sessions is much harder than it would be in a traditional school year.

14. If my child is absent or misses a session, does that get made up?

- Unfortunately, no when a child is absent the sessions do not get made up.

15. Based on the schedule, my child may miss part of a class for therapy. What happens then?

- Our teachers are understanding and will work with your child to help determine how that work is going to be made up.
- Each teacher has an academic assistance period where students can make appointments to catch up one on one for any missed work. We suggest reaching out to the teacher directly to schedule.

Section 3: Safety Protocols

16. My child cannot wear a mask, what do you need to confirm that?

- Based on guidance from the Department of Education, this is a medical safety matter and not an IEP/Special Education issue.

- All requests should be submitted to your child's building principal with supporting documentation from an appropriate medical professional.

17. My child has sensory issues and can not wear a mask, how will they be supported?

- If your child fits the criteria outlined above for an exemption from the mask requirement, we ask that you submit this request to your child's building principal.
- Our OT will also continue to work with students during their session on masking wearing along with their other IEP goals.

18. If my child removes their mask, will someone help them put it back on and if they refuse to wear their mask at some part of the day will they be sent home?

- Yes, our leadership and teaching staff share the philosophy that we are here to educate students. Therefore, we will work with students to learn how to keep the masks on. We recognize that this is a challenge for some students so we are committed to work with your children and our families.
- Students will not be sent home if they are unable to keep the mask on due to their disability.

19. If I elect to disenroll my child to homeschool them, what would they still have access to in terms of special education?

- If you disenroll your child, you will lose access to the database, emails and services provided by the school district. Your child will no longer be considered a student of Butler Public Schools.
- The district views homeschool as a parent choice and thus the district will not be providing any related services or special education programming.

Section 4: Other

20. How will IEP meetings work?

- IEP related meetings will continue to occur in a normal manner and in accordance with NJ Special Education code.
- Parents will have the option to select either in person or virtual meetings.

21. Who is the best person to contact if I have questions or guidance?

- Your child's case manager is the best person to contact if you have questions about their program or services.