

July 28, 2020 Webinar: Special Education & Student Supports Q&A Follow-up



Questions Asked	District Response / Answer
504 Plans	
What about kids with 504 plans??	504 plans typically provide accommodations and program modifications. They do not provide special education services. However, we would look at individual circumstances/needs of students with 504 plans when a concern arises.
BOCES Programs	
How will this affect the BOCES programs?	BOCES programs are offering 5 days in-person programs this year.
Will BOCES programs still be in the district?	
Will the boces job coaching program be continuing this fall?	
Who is in charge of the direction of the BOCES students? B'ville or BOCES? Or is it completely collaborative?	BOCES administration oversees all programmatic decisions. The Baldwinsville Committee on Special Education makes all recommendations for special education programs and services.

Communication	
will there be a point person for contact with no families vs every provider calling/emailing every week/day.	For students with IEPs, there will be an assigned case manager that will act as point person for contact. We hope to streamline communication with families but there may be times when another provider may need to contact the family.
Will their teachers be assigned earlier this year so we can communicate earlier this year, since this is not going to be a "normal" year?	Student schedules will be available in the Parent Portal beginning Friday, August 28, 2020.
Will we get answers to questions asked personally by email?	No; all responses submitted to the Q&A section of Zoom will be answered in each webinar Q&A document.
Who do we ask for future questions?	Please direct any further questions to Rocco Nalli, Director of Special Education or Karrie LaMacchia, Director of Pupil Personnel Services.
Co-Teaching	
Will our special needs children continue to be integrated into classrooms (Mainstreamed) with the general education students in school?	Yes...Absolutely!
CPSE: Committee on Preschool Special Education	
PreSchool IEP students that are in a daycare/preschool setting, are their services in person, Teletherapy or a mix?	This will be a mix.
Evaluations	

Did Ms. Wolken say evaluations would have to be done in person?	A comprehensive evaluation would need to be completed in person. We are currently looking into options that may allow for remote evaluation.
If I understood correctly re -evals will be done in person	
Face Coverings	
Will masks be optional to Special Ed. students??	<p>Face coverings are very important for the safety of your child and other children especially during transition. Face shields are an option if your child will not tolerate a cloth face covering. We recognize that some children will not be able to wear a face covering and this will be allowed on an individual / case by case situation. Please reach out to the building administrator if you believe your child is not capable of wearing a face covering. Special plans can be made to ensure safety such as transitioning in the hallway at a time when it is less crowded, etc.</p> <p>Additional responses regarding face coverings can be found in the Health & Safety Webinar Q&A.</p>
My concern is working closely with students with special needs and these students not being required to wear masks, especially if these students are in more frequently than other students. Kids can still carry and transmit COVID to those working with them. We want safety for both students and staff!	
When it comes to the wearing of masks. My 5 year old son has sensory issues (autism spectrum) and is unable to wear a mask because of the issues. Will he be allowed to attend kindergarten at Palmer this year?	
Will the kids be isolated if they cannot wear a mask?	
Grading	
Will the grading system be modified for students in K-6?	Only if this is listed as an accommodation on their IEP.
Hybrid Learning Environment	

<p>Given this poll, are there any other hybrid schedule options? Something with consistent days for parents that work and need to maintain a consistent schedule?</p>	<p>A variety of models for scheduling exist and were considered by the district.</p>
<p>how long will the hybrid classes be.. and on days too</p>	<p>Specific school scheduled will be released by each school building;</p>
<p>I was hoping this poll would have been modified since last Tuesday. Is there going to be a question that allows for a modified hybrid response... In person for k-2 and 3 days for 3-12?</p>	<p>Thank you for your suggestion.</p>
<p>Being that student with disabilities as well as typical learning students all learn better with consistency why is the 3 day on and 3 day off model being considered. They can't plan what days they are going or get use to a consistent schedule which could cause unneeded anxiety.</p>	<p>The district is prioritizing students with disabilities for a return to full in-person (5 days a week) instruction if feasible based on capacity.</p>
<p>With 3 days on 3 days off , what about the kiddos that require routine and schedule ?</p>	<p>We have to be flexible and we recognize that students need routine and consistency. We have to balance this the best we can with the NYSDOH guidelines and the requirements of returning to school to ensure safety.</p>
<p>Please keep in mind that parents who have to work full-time cannot have a standard schedule every day for their child. It's simply not feasible.</p>	<p>Thank you for your feedback.</p>
<p>When using see saw this spring was the teachers dumped all the assignments into it- nothing that was modified for students. Families have to navigate through email, see saw messages etx to find links etx. Can each student's see saw have their links for their assignments on their main page? It was a hot mess for students to find their work etx.</p>	<p>Please reach out to your child's special education teacher if you have any concerns about work needing to be modified or offered through a different mode that works best for your child and your family.</p>

<p>How are teachers going to do Google Meets and Zooms if they are in the classroom teaching? This is going to be so hard for them? Will there be teachers/Ta's available for all kids during their assigned "virtual" time?</p>	<p>These are all things we are figuring out as we get information about who is attending in person or remote. We will have staff available to offer remote learning.</p>
<p>Regardless of special needs or “normal” students- if a hybrid model is chosen, how will students at home be given assistance when questions arise or more help is needed, given that his/her teacher will be busy teaching the in person group? It seems like virtual learning will just be busy work which cuts their education level in half essentially.</p>	
<p>If we go hybrid can we request our children to go the same days? both a or b</p>	<p>Yes. The district is using Cohorts by Neighborhood/Bus Routes to address this concern.</p>
<p>3 days off? what does that mean?</p>	<p>3 days remote (virtual) learning environment</p>
<p>Is there an option for students to attend the same days each week to allow working parents to have consistency for planning purposes?</p>	<p>We are looking at the possibility for students with disabilities to attend five days per week.</p>
<p>In-Person Option</p>	
<p>Is the district looking at having a different set of options for special ed students or will they be included with the general Ed population?</p>	<p>We do not want to separate students with IEPs from general education students and will continue to provide inclusive services as much as possible.</p>
<p>If 100% in person is not an option given social distancing needs, why is it still being given as an option? Votes for that are skewing your numbers for the other options.</p>	<p>Thank you for your suggestion.</p>

<p>I saw the proposal that Liverpool central school district put out for special education students for 4 days per week in person. Is that something that Baldwinsville central school district is able to handle following the guidelines ?</p>	<p>We are hoping that we can allow students with disabilities the option to attend five days/week but need to know if we have the space to offer this. This is dependent on parents' decisions on going to remote learning or not. If we can not offer five days/week for students with disabilities, we would then look to provide more than just the three days on, three days out.</p>
<p>Can they come to school 5 days a week without a mask if they cannot tolerate it?</p>	<p>There will be some medical exemptions for students.</p>
<p>How is there space for all k-2 to potentially attend?</p>	<p>This depends on how many parents select the option to have their children instructed remotely this year. Less students coming in for in-person hybrid instruction will potentially allow for more space in school buildings.</p>
<p>With the hybrid model option and the many different scenarios, is B'ville focused on trying to prioritize in-person learning for elementary students instead of secondary students? I feel that elementary students and special education students would have more difficulty with wearing face masks and social distancing whereas secondary students will understand this better.</p>	<p>Yes, the district is looking at prioritizing in-person learning for elementary grades K-2, students with disabilities, and English Language Learners. If possible, we would offer the option for five days/week for these students.</p>
<p>Model Options</p>	
<p>Would it be helpful if the parents who CAN keep their kids home without harm, commit to keeping them home? Even if we would love them to return to school?</p>	<p>Yes, families have the option of their child attending 100% remote.</p>
<p>Will we get the choice to have our special needs children get the choice to go 5 days a week if the parents want them to?</p>	<p>We are asking parents of students with disabilities their preference regarding this in the SchoolTool Questionnaire for Selection #2 related to an in-person option.</p>

<p>Will there be after school programs for students this year (we do not get done with work until 4pm)? More specifically at the elementary level?</p>	<p>Remote learning will be offering synchronous and asynchronous learning. The asynchronous support would help this circumstance.</p>
<p>Can a family choose the hybrid option and may change to remote online instruction afterwards?</p>	<p>Yes. Please review responses related to model options in the Curriculum & Instruction Webinar Q&A.</p>
<p>Are half days an option?</p>	<p>Half days is not an option that is considered at this point, but with special needs students, we always look at the individual needs and circumstances for what is best.</p>
<p>I'm unclear - will we have the option to select on Friday in-person, hybrid or remote?</p>	<p>You will be able to select the option of hybrid or remote. If you select hybrid, you will also be able to indicate if you would like your child with an IEP if they can attend five days/week if possible.</p>
<p>Positive Test Protocols</p>	
<p>What protocols have been discussed when staff or student is tested positive for covid? What is the plan of action for when this happens as it will inevitably happen if a hybrid or in-person approach is decided upon.</p>	<p>Please review responses related to positive test protocols in the Health & Safety Webinar Q&A.</p>
<p>Progress Monitoring</p>	
<p>How are teachers collecting data on IEP goals if instruction is online?</p>	<p>Special education staff will have to work with parents on the best way to progress monitor students on remote instruction. We will have to allow for flexibility and creativity on how to best do this on an individual basis.</p>
<p>Remote Learning Environment</p>	

<p>Is there still going to be assistance for child with an IEP who's parents are planning on keeping them home to do distance learning fully?</p>	<p>Yes, we would continue to have to provide special education support for students with disabilities on remote instruction.</p>
<p>If I choose remote learning for my child will the special education continue?</p>	
<p>How are we to teach the same as the teachers when they are at home with our knowing they're special techniques</p>	<p>We understand that this presents challenges for parents and that is why we are giving parents options to select what works best for their individual circumstances.</p>
<p>Will the teacher and special education teachers be reaching out to parents and students that will be virtual learning this year before school starts?</p>	<p>There may be some incidents of staff teachers reaching out to families before school starts but generally you would not have a teacher reach out to you until the start of school.</p>
<p>Social Distancing</p>	
<p>Wondering what the plan is for children who have behavior issues that lash out? It is very difficult to social distance when a child is hitting and kicking.</p>	<p>We will have to provide appropriate PPE to staff working with students having difficulties with social distancing.</p>
<p>Special Education</p>	
<p>I'm not a teacher. my son has an IEP. WHAT WILL YOU PLAN TO DO WITH THESE</p>	<p>Parents are given the option to select remote learning or hybrid in-person instruction. Parents of students with special needs will also be able to select if they would like further supports for their students beyond the 3 day hybrid rotation.</p>
<p>Let's talk about who is going to monitor the students-asking parents to print, complete, and scan back is not the proper way to handle this "documentation"- will your special education staff actually be "instructing" and "monitoring" this time?</p>	<p>For students attending the hybrid model, instruction and progress monitoring will be completed entirely by Baldwinsville School District staff. For remote instruction only, special education staff will have to work with families to individually create progress</p>

	<p>monitoring plans that work best for that family.</p>
<p>Will the IEP be followed for the amount of time of special education instruction will be followed based on the amount of time they get with special education piece and also for therapies? Because during the closure they didn't get the amount of time based on the IEP...</p> <p>If hybrid schedule is in effect (3 days a week), how would those students needing multiple therapies 2x a week, fit it all in? Will zoom therapy sessions still need to be implemented to meet the frequency of sessions</p>	<p>New York State Education Department’s Reopening Guidance states “Until schools return to normal operating conditions, the same flexibility with respect to IEP implementation for delivery of services during school closures due to the COVID-19 outbreak continues to apply to the programs and services whether delivered in-person and/or remotely (e.g., flexibility with respect to mode and/or manner; group or individual sessions; frequency, duration and location of related services,...” With that said, we will try to provide IEP services as written on the IEPs to the greatest extent possible.</p>
<p>Will the special education teacher reach out to the parent/student in August to let us know who he or she will be and how they will be working with us at the high school level?</p>	<p>This will not occur until September when all planning is completed.</p>
<p>When will you find out your child’s spec Ed teacher? Is there added time this year before school to go through what the model for your child looks like? What worked didn’t work when we did this last year etc?</p>	<p>Your special education teacher would be included in the information provided to parents in August that provides teachers and schedules.</p>

Who determines high needs?	The IEP outlines the needs of students in the areas of academic, social, physical, and management. The programs and services outlined on the IEP also outline the amount of special education services a student is provided with on the continuum of special education.
Staffing	
Will teaching assistants have a job if they are assigned to a specific student?	Yes
That's a good point. If a student has a 1:1 on his/her IEP and the family chooses remote education, will that student lose the 1:1 for the next year?	No; anything related to staffing has no impact on how the IEP is written and decisions made at CSE meetings.
That is a great thought if student is not in what happens to assigned TA?	The TA will be assigned other work within the building to support the needs of students.
Extended School Year	
Hi. What students were in person for summer school?	Students identified by the Committee on Special Education that qualified for extended school year services based on the students needs.
Technology	
Will there be enough chrome books available if we remote learn 100%? I think this was addressed last night but I didn't hear the answer. Sorry.	Yes. Please review responses related to technology in the Curriculum & Instruction Webinar Q&A.

<p>In the latter half of this presentation, the quality of audio and video has degraded. This was just a webinar. What happens when the bandwidth is stressed due to the number of students, providers, etc all trying to provide virtual services at the same time?</p>	<p>The district has worked with CNY Regional Information Center to increase our capacity and bandwidth. It is anticipated that teachers will use district facilities to remote teach as needed to address technology concerns/issues.</p>
<p>Therapies</p>	
<p>If a family opts for virtual learning how will services be provided</p>	<p>We would like to offer in person therapies if parents opt for virtual learning. Otherwise, they would have to be provided virtually also.</p>
<p>If we chose a 100% remote option, is there an ability to come into school for scheduled speech and OT only?</p>	<p>Yes - we want to make this an option available.</p>
<p>How can you fit in 3 therapies and still have students in class</p>	<p>We understand that students would miss a lot of instruction if they are being pulled out of instruction for services if only attending on a three day hybrid schedule. This is why we are looking for the five day/week option for students with disabilities.</p>
<p>Is it possible to pull students out for OT, PT, and speech outside of their classroom hours (like on a day they normally wouldn't come in for their gen. ed. instruction?) I'm worried about my daughter missing out on an already shortened school week by being pulled out for services.</p>	<p>This is a possibility that we definitely are exploring. We would want to do this as long as we can meet space requirements and scheduling of related services staff.</p>
<p>How will providing services work in the fall if students are nonverbal or in wheelchairs?</p>	<p>We are providing full PPE to staff to support safety in this situation. This will include the staff members wearing face masks, face shields, gloves, and gowns. They will be trained on how to properly don and doff these items for safety.</p>
<p>Transportation</p>	

<p>If I need to come in for special instructions. Do they get bus service?</p>	<p>Yes; please indicate this on the SchoolTool questionnaire. You can also review additional transportation related questions in the Transportation & Food Services Webinar Q&A.</p>
<p>Webinars</p>	
<p>What does "supports for students" mean? Is this only regarding special education?</p>	<p>The special education webinar was referencing special education programs and services only.</p>
<p>Are all of these slides going to be made available to parents?</p>	<p>The presentations are available on the district website.</p>
<p>Could you change to just email polls? I don't think the zoom polls are accurate because everyone isn't attending them.</p>	<p>Thank you for your suggestion.</p>