

FAQs for Special Education and Section 504



This document was prepared as a supplement to the Beauregard Parish School Board's Return to School Plan to answer the most commonly asked questions we have received for students with exceptionalities. We want to assure parents that all of our teachers, paraprofessionals, and related service providers will work collaboratively to provide the support and accommodations needed for each student to successfully access the curriculum. Exactly how this happens will be determined by the students' parents and teachers.

For students identified through special education, their program of services will be documented on their Individualized Education Plan (IEP) as agreed upon by the IEP Team members. Services for students identified through Section 504 will be determined by the School Building Level Committee (SBLC) and documented on their Individualized Accommodation Plan (IAP).

How will special education services be provided in the different phases?

Special education teachers and staff are prepared to provide services in-person and virtually. We will continue providing services just as we always have. However, providing services in different phases may look different than before. We will incorporate technology to deliver needed services while protecting the health and safety of everyone. Each student's services will be decided individually and as always, parents will be involved in those decisions through the IEP process.

- In Phase 1 the school system will provide virtual learning opportunities for all students. This will be done using Google Classroom and Beauregard Parish Curriculum. Students would continue to have access to high quality instruction and would be required to log-in regularly, submit assignments, and complete tests.
- In Phase 2 using LDOE guidelines, PreK-6 grade would attend school daily. Students in grades 7-12 will be integrated utilizing an A/B model to provide instruction to half of our students on alternating days.
- In Phase 3 students will attend 5 days per week and follow all CDC, LDH and LDOE guidelines.
- In any phase, parents may choose for their children to participate in our at-home virtual learning option.

	<p>Google Classroom is the primary learning platform used throughout our district. Whether attending on campus or virtually at home, students will have access to the same instructional materials. Students will have a separate Google Classroom for every subject they participate and receive a grade.</p>
	<p>Google Meet is a video app and is one tool that teachers will use to share course content and hold conferences. Google Meet may also be used to hold virtual IEP and IAP meetings.</p>
<p>Related Service providers such as Speech Therapists, Occupational Therapists, Physical Therapists, Behavior Interventionists, and Social Workers will use Google Meet to provide services to students.</p>	
<p>Teachers will use all of the Google Suite products available in the Google Drive such as Google Calendar, Google Docs, Google Sheets and Google Slides as well as other apps and on-line learning tools such as Kami, Khan Academy, Learning Ally, LearnZillion, Exact Path, and Unique.</p>	

What happens if my child was being evaluated when schools closed?

You will be contacted by Pupil Appraisal staff to schedule testing activities as they are needed. Testing will be conducted individually with appropriate safety measure in place. These will be reviewed with you when you are contacted by Pupil Appraisal staff.

I am concerned about my child's health and want them to participate in the virtual option. Can s/he still receive special education services? How will they be provided?

Yes, students who receive special education services and participate virtually will still receive the services outlined on their IEP. All services will be offered on campus and virtually. Parents and other IEP Team members will decide how each student should receive their needed services.

Let's review a few examples.

- The IEP Team for virtual Student A decided that s/he will receive special education instruction and speech therapy virtually through the Google Meet app. They scheduled virtual special education instruction Monday through Friday from 11:00 a.m. to 11:50 a.m. Speech therapy will also be provided virtually on Tuesdays from 1:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.
- The IEP Team for Virtual Student B decided that s/he will receive special education instruction and speech therapy on campus. Special instruction is scheduled on campus Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 8:40 a.m. Occupational therapy will also be provided at school on Friday from 8:45 a.m. to 9:15 a.m.
- The IEP Team for Virtual Student C decided that s/he will receive special education instruction virtually Monday through Friday from 11:00 a.m. to 11:50 a.m. While speech therapy will be provided at school on Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.

My child has a health condition will s/he be required to wear a face mask?

Face masks are required for students in grades 3-12, and allowed for students in grades PK-2. There are students who are not recommended to wear a face covering. For example, students with asthma or other breathing condition, severe intellectual disability, sensory or tactile conditions, motor impairment or other condition that prohibits the removal of a face covering without assistance. In these instances, a note from your child's healthcare provider will be needed to verify and document the reason(s) for not wearing a face covering.

My child is deaf/hearing impaired and reads lips. Will s/he have to wear a face mask?

As previously stated, face masks are required for students in grades 3-12, and allowed for students in grades PK-2. We understand your concerns. Clear face coverings will be provided for teachers and staff who interact with students who are deaf/hearing impaired and rely on lip reading to communicate. Clear face coverings will be provided for Speech Therapists, and to students for speech/language therapy usage.

What will transportation services look like when schools reopen?

When school starts, special transportation services will resume at the same time as regular bus services. Bus routes will be adjusted to make sure students are physically distanced to the extent possible. Special Education bus drivers and aides will wear face masks and follow all CDC, LDH, and LDE guidelines.

- In Phase 1, buses will run at 25% capacity.
- In Phase 2, buses will run at 50% capacity.
- In Phase 3, buses will run at 75% capacity.

Will gifted classes still be offered?

Yes. We are prepared to offer gifted services on campus and virtually. Parents and other IEP Team members will decide how each student should receive their gifted time.

Will my child still receive accommodations? How will they be provided?

Yes. Students will still receive their needed accommodations and modifications whether attending school on campus or virtually. Let's review a few examples.

- Students can receive text read aloud through the text-to-speech feature in Google. If attending on campus, s/he should be wearing headphones.
- Students can receive extended time, shortened and/or modified test and assignments through Google Classroom features, whether attending virtually or on campus.

My child participates in the LEAP Connect curriculum. Can s/he attend virtually?

Yes, students addressing LEAP Connect standards can participate in the virtual learning option. However, their participation will require much more parental involvement and supervision. Also, their lessons will use the Unique platform as well as Google Classroom. If your child is addressing LEAP Connect standards and you are considering virtual learning, please talk with your child's special education teacher for more specific details.

I have questions/concerns and want to talk to someone. Who should I call?

You should call your child's school and speak with the principal, assistant principal, school counselor or special education teacher.