

CCSD Reopening of School Plan for Students with Disabilities (504 Plans and IEPs):

Two Parent Options for Special Education During Global Pandemic

TRADITIONAL IN-PERSON MODEL

- 504 accommodations and IEP services, goals and accommodations as determined by the IEP Team for the face-to-face environment
- Parent/Guardian selected instructional environment for at least nine weeks ES or one semester MS/HS
- If school is closed by the Superintendent due to a COVID-19 outbreak then **Remote Learning** will be implemented and include a Contingency Plan of prioritized services, goals and accommodations developed in collaboration with Parents/Guardians and the rest of the IEP Team or 504 Team

DIGITAL LEARNING MODEL

- Parent/Guardian selected instructional environment for at least nine weeks elementary school or one semester middle and high school
- 504 accommodations and IEP services, goals and accommodations as determined by the IEP Team for the Digital Learning environment

CCSD is dedicated to providing education to all the children of Cherokee County during this national crisis. As such, CCSD is offering both a Traditional In-Person Model and Digital Learning Model for ALL students Kindergarten-12th grade including those students who have IEPs and 504 Plans. Additionally, both models are available to Special Education preschool and pre-k students.

CCSD acknowledges that this is a difficult decision to make for your child and your family. CCSD appreciates your understanding and cooperation as we work together to meet your child's needs during these unprecedented times.

Top Priorities for CCSD in Special Education:

- Focus on the safety, health and welfare of our students and staff members.
- To provide a free and appropriate public education (FAPE) per student IEPs and 504 Plans with additional health, wellness and safety measures in the traditional school environment.
- Collaborate with parents/guardians who elect the Digital Learning option or if CCSD moves to the Remote Learning model to provide students with disabilities a COVID-19 Contingency Plan of prioritized services, goals, and accommodations in light of the circumstances.

Option #1: Special Education in the Traditional In-Person Model

Your child's IEP or 504 Plan will be fully implemented as written and determined by your child's IEP team in the school setting. Staff will follow all CCSD protocols to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and reduce the potential risk of exposure. Should the Superintendent close school due to a COVID-19 outbreak, your child's Contingency Plan, which will include prioritized goals, accommodations and services developed in collaboration with you, will be enacted. Should your child have individual medical needs, please share those with your child's case manager or Section 504 Administrator along with any medical documentation supporting these medical needs.

Option #2: Special Education Digital Learning Model

While your child's IEP or 504 Plan was developed to be implemented in the Traditional In-Person setting, CCSD has provided you a choice for Digital Learning to acknowledge and accommodate parents/guardians who may not feel safe with students returning to the face-to-face learning environment. Please be aware, if you opt for your child to participate in Digital Learning, your child's IEP services or 504 accommodations may be different than when your child returns to the face-to-face learning environment.

You and your child's IEP team or 504 Team will collaborate to develop a COVID-19 Contingency Plan. The COVID-19 Contingency Plan for digital implementation of your child's IEP or 504 Plan is only relevant while you elect for your child to participate in the Digital Learning model during this global pandemic.

- The COVID-19 Contingency Plan will identify how your child's Special Education services, accommodations and related services indicated in their IEP or Section 504 Plan can be provided via the Digital Learning model to the best of CCSD's ability.
- The COVID-19 Contingency Plan may include alternate modes of instruction such as virtual instruction, instructional telephone calls, and other curriculum-based instructional activities.
- The COVID-19 Contingency Plan will identify a case manager, who is a certified special educator for students with IEPs.
- The case manager may be a different provider than the assigned case manager in the face to face learning environment case manager will collaborate with your child's other virtual providers.
- Your child's service providers will collect data based on your child's goals and objectives as outlined in your child's COVID-19 Contingency Plan.
- All Special Education virtual classes may be conducted using a combination of the following:
 - ◆ direct, real-time instruction
 - ◆ individual
 - ◆ group
 - ◆ student-directed assignments and activities.
- Accommodations and supports necessary for your child to access instruction in the digital environment will be outlined in your child's COVID-19 Contingency Plan.
- Your child's COVID-19 Contingency Plan will also address services for your child if they are eligible to receive Speech and Language Therapy, Occupational Therapy, and/or Physical Therapy. These services will be available via a teletherapy platform, and the specific service time will be determined in the student's COVID-19 Contingency Plan.

A critical component for a student to be successful in a virtual educational setting is adult engagement and supervision. As a teacher will not be physically present to provide supervision, you will be performing that supervisory role when your child is enrolled in the Digital Learning model. In order for your child to be successful, CCSD would appreciate your collaboration. You can support your child's teacher(s) and service providers by:

- Monitoring your child's academic performance daily
- Ensuring your child attends and participates in live sessions
- Holding your child accountable for completing required assignments
- Providing your child accommodations that they may require to actively participate in services (i.e. redirection, visual, verbal, gestural and physical prompting, etc.)
- Regularly communicating with your child's teacher(s) and/or service providers regarding any questions or concerns

CCSD Special Education staff will contact the parents/guardians during pre-planning to develop the COVID-19 Contingency Plan. For students with Section 504 Plans, the building level 504 Administrator or 504 Chair will contact the parents / guardians during pre-planning to develop the COVID-19 Contingency Plan.