



# South Lyon Community Schools

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South Lyon Community Schools (SLCS)

Special Education - August 24, 2020

Return to School FAQ

Note: SLCS is committed to ensuring students with disabilities continue to receive special education and related services during this unprecedented time of COVID-19 Pandemic. This Return to School FAQ is designed to answer general questions related to the special education programs and services provided to students with disabilities. As new questions arise, we will update this information.

**Q:** What does returning to school look like for students with IEPs?

**A:** To begin the year, the current IEP will be put in place and the district will provide special education supports virtually. However, we recognize that the needs of children may have changed since the spring of 2020. To address the needs of individual students, IEP teams will meet to review and update the IEP.

**Q:** What are the phases being referenced?

**A:** In the spring of 2020, Governor Whitmer implemented a six-phase approach to reopening the state in order to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19. For each phase of reopening, requirements and recommendations were developed in the MI Safe School Roadmap. In Phases 1-3, schools are mandated to provide instruction remotely. In Phases 4, which is where Michigan is currently placed as of 8/14/2020, school districts are allowed to provide in-person instruction with required safety protocols in place. In Phase 5-6, in-person instruction is allowed with minimal to no required safety protocols. More information about the Michigan Safe School - Return to School Roadmap can be found at the following site: [MI Safe Schools](#).

**Q:** Should IEP's be written to account for phases 1-5?

**A:** Most of the IEP's have been written in anticipation of face to face instruction. This practice will continue, however an Alternative Plan for Remote Learning will be developed. The Alternative Plan for Remote Learning will outline what special education programs and services will be provided should schools be mandated to provide only remote instruction (Phases 1-3). More information about IEP development can be found in the Michigan Department of Education Guidance Document: [Guidance to Address Foregone Learning for Students with IEPs as a Result of the COVID-19 Pandemic](#).

**Q:** Will the District conduct evaluations and reevaluations:

**A:** In the fall of 2020, SLCS will resume evaluating students. The setting in which the assessment will be administered may be virtual and/or scheduled in person.

**Q:** Will my next IEP be in-person or online?

**A:** IEP's will be conducted remotely unless there are extenuating circumstances.

**Q:** The Roadmap recommends limiting guests in the building. Does continuing to hold IEP meeting via phone or virtual make sense (still allowing face to face meetings when needed)?

**A:** The MI Safe Schools Return to School Roadmap strongly recommends that guests not be allowed to enter buildings. The Oakland County Health Division encourages virtual meetings. SLCS is expecting to conduct most IEP meetings virtually. To learn more about the Oakland County guidance use this link: [Oakland County Health Toolkit](#) .

**Q:** Will my IEP change if there is an executive order, put in place by the Governor, declaring all districts must provide remote instruction?

**A:** We are currently in Phase 4 of the MI Safe Start Phases which allows in-person instruction. When we return for the 2020-2021 school year, it is expected that IEP teams create an Alternative Plan for Remote Learning. The Alternative Plan for Remote Learning will identify what the programs and services will look like should the status of MI Safe Start enter into Phases 1-3 which requires remote instruction. Families who choose Virtual Learning Pathway will be invited to an IEP Team meeting to review and revise the current IEP.

**Q:** What if I would like to keep my child home and do the virtual programming?

**A:** SLCS is providing the option for families to choose virtual programming. If you choose this option, the IEP team will convene to identify the needs of your student and to develop the IEP to address these needs.

**Q:** How will accommodations be met in general education classes when receiving instruction virtually/remotely?

**A:** Staff will follow and implement IEP plans whether your child is receiving instruction face to face or remote. IEP plans will be reviewed with parents to determine if any adjustments need to be made based on the current phase of the Governor's Roadmap to Schools.

**Q:** Will there be any consideration for making up services during the 2019-2020 school closure?

**A:** Michigan Department of Education has provided guidance to all school districts on how to determine any loss of progression during the closure. IEP teams will review data to determine if a student is in need of recovery services. If there is an identified need, the IEP will address the need within the IEP being developed.

**Q:** How will my student move between special education and general education classes during face to face instruction?

**A:** During times that students mainstream, they will follow safety protocols which will include wearing a facial covering as required in face to face instruction.

**Q:** How will students receive their IEP and special education services online if the district moves to remote learning?

**A:** Parents of students with IEP's will be contacted by their student's case manager with specific information. The district will make a good faith effort to support students in making progress on IEP annual goals and short term objectives.

**Q:** What if my child requires specialized transportation when we return to face to face instruction?

**A:** If your student's IEP identifies a need for specialized transportation those services will be provided when we return to face to face instruction.

**Q:** Will things be different for students that are assigned to self-contained classroom (eg. ECSE, CI or EI classrooms)?

**A:** SLCS understands the students who attend specialized self-contained programs have unique needs. The SLCS Special Education Department is working with administrators, teachers, and special education staff to develop a schedule which could allow students in the self-contained classrooms to return to face to face instruction earlier than the district plan. Parent communication will occur at least one week prior to a change in the delivery of instruction. Individual student needs will be addressed through the IEP process.

**Q:** If the Governor has ordered remote learning for all students, will special education staff be available to come into my home to service my student?

**A:** In Phases 1-3 of the MI Safe Start schools are not able to operate with in-person instruction. Special education programs and services will be delivered remotely in Phases 1-3.

**Q:** My student participates in the Early On programming. In Phase 4, will staff come to my home?

**A:** Most Early On services will be provided remotely to families until Phase 5.

**Q:** My student attends the Post Secondary special education program. Will they go to worksites off campus?

**A:** We will be focusing on work skills and microbusiness experiences from our building. At this time, we are not expecting to work off site until we enter into Phase 5.