

SPECIAL ED/504 FAQS

Below you will find a summary of questions and answers that were discussed at our August 10 Town Hall meeting. This list will be updated as any new questions arise.

Q: Typically parents do not know what the special services (OT, PT, Speech, etc.) schedules will be until the first or second week of school. Will parents know what the schedules will be before the start of the year?

A: It is not likely that schedules for all related services (PT/OT, Speech) will be set prior to the start of the school year. Related service providers must obtain their caseloads and sort through those who are in-person and remote before any scheduling can be done. We will make an effort to get the information out as early as possible.

Q: How will IEP's be accommodated with the new virtual planning?

A: For fully remote students, their Edgenuity program will be modified by special education teachers to ensure IEP accommodations and modifications are met to the greatest extent possible. These teachers will also be available during school hours to assist students with their work, as needed. Additionally, Edgenuity has a number of modifications built into the program, which will be available to any students that need to access them.

Q: When will we receive confirmation that our children will be attending 4 days a week in order to receive their IEP services?

A: Contact your child's case manager (IEP) or counselor/Principal (504) to learn if the 4-day option is right for your child(ren).

Q: In regards to the resource classes will the teachers be meeting with them remotely like they were during the school year? How often are they going to meet with them remotely and will it be the same setup?

A: For students that are part of the hybrid cohorts, they will meet with their resource teachers daily, as they would during a typical school year. If a student is hybrid attending only two days, they will meet remotely with the resource teacher in the afternoon on the days they are not in school, as well as Friday morning. For fully remote students, they will have access to a special education teacher for assistance during school hours.

Q: If my child is in the wed/thurs group and I want him to attend all 4 days, will he be getting a duplicate on Wed/Thurs of the lesson he is getting Mon/Tues?

A: No. The expectation is that all classes will plan lessons so that students move forward each day and that Wednesday/Thursday is not a repeat of Monday/Tuesday.

Q: If a child is attending remotely, can they switch to in person at any time?

A: Students attending remotely may only switch to in-person at the end of the marking period. However, students attending in-person may opt to go fully remote at any time.

Q: Please give an example when 4 days per week in person is not appropriate for a child with an IEP. Please explain acronyms such as BSI.

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A: Whether or not attending 4 days is appropriate for a student's program is a discussion that must be had with the case manager. BSI stands for Basic Skills Instruction. It is part of our Response to Intervention process in which we provide layers of support to students in need.

Q: Doesn't the school need to complete a certain amount of hours in the year? So if they are having ½ days, how will they complete those hours? Do they have to attend summer school?

A: We have a schedule for 180 day that must be fulfilled. Four hours is counted as a "school day." Summer school will not be needed to fulfill these requirements.

Q: Will related services be individual sessions only or will in-person groups be allowed?

A: Small groups of related services are permitted as long as safe distancing is possible in the treatment area and all other DOH and CDC protocols are followed.

Q: My Child attends Central School and will begin the school year remotely. He does have a 504 plan and I would like to know when I can get the info on who I am to contact regarding his accommodations.

A: Once you know who your child's teacher is, you may reach out. Additionally, you may contact the school counselor at any time for assistance.

Q: Is there any other option for a fully remote child with an IEP besides Edgenuity?

A: We researched a number of programs and found Edgenuity to best fit our needs as a district. If modified properly, it provides a positive experience for all students with IEPs.

Q: Will the grades be Pass / Fail again this marking period?

A: No. We will return to our normal grading system for this school year.

Q: How will the days that they are not in school and are remote learning be set up? Will there be meetings with teachers?

A: Students who choose in-person instruction will meet with teachers virtually in the afternoons on the days they are home. They will be provided work to complete independently, as well.

Q: If my child goes 4 days, will they have to log in during the afternoons of the virtual days of their cohort?

A: No. They will receive all of their instruction in person.

Q: I understand that if your child goes into school all 4 days they do not have to attend in the afternoon. But, will new information be taught in the afternoon that they will be missing for their primary group.

A: No. Both the Blue and Green cohorts will move forward at the same pace. Anyone attending with both groups will not be missing out on any new instruction.

Q: If our daughter goes 4 days, will she be in a special ed room on the days her cohort is virtual?

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A: If the IEP calls for a special ed room, the student will be in a special ed room. Technically, if a child attends all four days, they will be in both cohorts.

Q: If the school is to close again, in the hybrid program, what will the learning look like on the days the students should have been in school? Also, given that there is no end in sight as of yet, will there be any change with the groups given that there are a few holidays that fall on a Monday.

A: If school closes again, we will follow the normal school day schedule using a virtual platform. Students will log in at the school start time and end at the end of the day. Regarding the groups, while there are a number of holidays that fall on Mondays to start the year, there are also a few Thursday holidays later in the first marking period. As the year progresses, if we need to look at balancing the schedule due to holidays, we will do so.

Q: Will the kids get taken out of the classes or given extra help in the class?

A: If the IEP calls for a student to be pulled out for instruction, they will be pulled out.

Q: Will chromebooks be sent home with the students each day?

A: Each student will be assigned a Chromebook. They will need to transport it to and from school.