

KCS CONNECT

Fall 2020

Special Education & Section 504 / Frequently Asked Questions

This FAQ sheet will be updated as new information becomes available.

My student has an underlying health condition and cannot be in school during COVID-19. How will the virtual learning program accommodate their needs?

Teachers and service providers will work with families to prioritize services that provide access to the general curriculum and enable student progress toward IEP goals/Section 504 Service Plans. Services for students will be addressed in collaboration with families on an individual basis.

Accommodations and modifications are provided regardless of the educational setting. The IEP and 504 teams will work collaboratively with families to identify alternative solutions if it is determined an accommodation or modification is not appropriate or successful in a particular setting.

Knox County Schools will continue to provide families the opportunity to meaningfully participate in the IEP/Section 504 processes. Staff will work with families to determine if virtual or in-person meetings are appropriate. KCS will make every effort to balance parent preference and public health guidelines.

My student is unable to use a Chromebook. Will KCS provide an alternative device option?

If the IEP/Section 504 team determines that a student requires a different device, yes.

How will IEPs and 504s be addressed for students who use the virtual learning program?

Knox County Schools will continue to provide families the opportunity to meaningfully participate in the IEP/504 processes. Staff will work with families to determine if virtual or in-person meetings are appropriate. KCS will make every effort to balance parent preference and public health guidelines.

My student needs help toileting and eating. How will this be done safely in the classroom?

KCS will follow the recommended health guidelines to meet student-specific needs. We will use personal protective equipment for our staff and students to the greatest extent possible.

My student requires special transportation. How will my student be transported safely?

The KCS Transportation Department has guidelines for all buses. These will be followed by our vehicles providing special transportation as well. We will use personal protective equipment for our staff and students to the greatest extent possible. Parent reimbursement is also a form of special transportation and will be utilized as appropriate.

My student participates in community-based instruction as part of their educational program. Will that continue this year?

Community-based instruction will continue as soon as it is safe to do so based on Health Department guidelines. In the meantime, teachers will provide opportunities for hands-on learning within the school environment to support the IEP goals and objectives.

My child may require physical assistance at times to keep them from harming themselves or others. How will this be done in the context of social distancing?

Our goal is always to keep students safe from harming themselves or others. We will utilize de-escalation strategies and follow behavior plans developed by IEP/Section 504 teams. We will use personal protective equipment for our staff and students to the greatest extent possible.

My child receives related services. Will this continue safely?

In-person related services will be delivered according to IEPs. We will use personal protective equipment for our staff and students to the greatest extent possible. IEP teams will meet to discuss the appropriate services for students that utilize the virtual learning program.

My child has sensory issues and can't wear a mask. What can be done in this situation?

KCS has consulted with the Knox County Health Board and reviewed all guidelines set forth by the Tennessee Department of Education and the CDC. Based on all stakeholder input, KCS has included the following statement in the KCS re-opening plan: *All students should wear a mask/face covering while on campus when physical distancing isn't possible unless a student is unable to remove a mask/face covering without assistance or has a medical condition or other need preventing it.*

Can my student attend part-time in-person and virtual for the remainder of the day?

No, parents must select either the in-person or virtual learning program provided by the district.

What is the difference between Homebound Services and the virtual learning program?

Homebound Services are an IEP team decision based on temporary or chronic medical conditions with the input of a child's medical physician. The virtual learning program is a parent choice based on COVID-19 and not an IEP team decision.

How will my child receive their accommodations and/or modifications if they utilize the virtual learning program?

Special education teachers/Section 504 case managers will continue to work closely with general education teachers and/or students to support all provisions. School staff and families should communicate regularly to determine the appropriateness of specific accommodations for students with IEPs or Section 504 plans.

The school provides a nurse to assist my child with his medical needs at school. How will this be done if my student utilizes the virtual learning program?

An IEP/Section 504 team will make this decision based on the unique needs of your child.

My child has a paraprofessional to assist in some of their classes. How will this be done if my student utilizes the virtual learning program?

An IEP/Section 504 team will make this decision based on the unique needs of your child.