

KCS Families:

We are excited to welcome our students back to school in August. I know the time away from school has been difficult for our students, teachers, and families. As you are aware, Superintendent Thomas announced our re-opening plan, KCS Connect. KCS Connect provides students and families the opportunity to choose between attending school in-person or opt to utilize our virtual option. We are asking that families submit their preference in Aspen Family Portal by July 22nd, so that we can prepare for online programming to meet the diverse needs of our students.

Families who elect for their student to attend school in-person will have access to all special education programming and services outlined in their IEP. As always, families can request an IEP meeting or parent/teacher conference to revisit the IEP or discuss amendments that may be needed to address safety concerns.

If you are interested in further exploring the KCS Connect digital option, please take the time to review the information below. If you have specific questions please contact us at [studentsupportservices@knoxschools.org](mailto:studentsupportservices@knoxschools.org).

Sincerely,

Jason Myers  
Executive Director of Student Supports  
Knox County Schools

#### **KCS Connect: Virtual Student Supports**

The following information is intended to provide families considering virtual education with general information and virtual services examples. This information is not intended to be an exhaustive list of finite options for virtual services. Although families opting to utilize the virtual platform may not have access to the same direct services that can be provided in the school setting, Knox County Schools is committed to working with families to develop a plan that will allow students to access the general education curriculum and special education supports and services to the maximum extent possible while attending school virtually.

#### **Services in a General Education Setting for ELA/Math/Science/Social Studies/Interventions:**

1. Digital instruction delivered individually or in groups by a variety of means such as recorded videos, live lessons, webinars, independent practice, assessments, on-line instructional, and/or adaptive programming with activity completion following instruction or within instruction. Example- 20-30 minute instructional virtual lesson introducing new material followed up with 20-30 minutes of independent student work at home. The opportunities will be available to students with modified curriculums as well.
2. Special education teacher/staff daily scheduled instructional support and/or review of the performance.
3. General education virtual teacher scheduled instructional support and/or review of performance.

4. Progress monitoring and assessments to be completed at home, school, or other location.

#### **Service in a Special Education Setting for ELA/Math/Science/Social Studies/Interventions**

1. Digital instruction delivered individually or in groups in a variety of methods which could include: recorded videos, live lessons, webinars, independent practice, assessments, and/or on-line instructional or adaptive programming. Example- 20-30 minute instructional virtual lesson introducing new material followed up with 20-30 minutes of independent student work at home. These opportunities will be available for students with modified curriculums as well.
2. Special education teacher/staff daily scheduled instructional support and/or review of the performance.
3. Paper-based instruction (ex. reading programs that follow a prescriptive sequence).
4. Progress monitoring and assessments to be completed at home, school, or other location.

#### **Related Services, Behavioral Supports, Social-Emotional Supports**

1. Related services will continue to support access to the general education programming through collaboration with classroom teachers and targeting specific skills.
2. Direct services may be provided through a variety of models including, but not limited to, digital instruction/teletherapy delivered individually or in groups by a variety of means such as recorded videos, live lessons, webinars, independent practice, assessments, on-line instructional, and/or adaptive programming. An example may include a 20-30 minute instructional lesson followed by independent practice.
3. Behavior plans, positive behavior supports will be reviewed with parents and amended as appropriate.
4. Additional supports may include parent training through materials, consultation, modeling, consultation with private providers, etc.
5. Scheduled progress monitoring and assessment to be completed at home, school, or other location.

#### **Intellectually Gifted**

1. The Gifted and Talented Coach will co-plan with classroom teachers to ensure resources are provided to enhance the rigor of the assignments and to promote problem-solving and thinking.
2. Direct services will be provided through a variety of models including, but not limited to, digital instruction delivered individually or in groups by a variety of means such as recorded videos, live lessons, webinars, independent practice, assessments, on-line instructional, and/or adaptive programming with activity completion following instruction or within instruction.
3. Scheduled progress monitoring and assessment to be completed at home, school, or other location.

#### **RESOURCES:**

Parents: Supporting Learning During COVID-19 Pandemic  
[IRIS | Parents: Supporting Learning During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)