

After holding this forum, the School Committee, on Friday, 8/7/20, voted to begin the school year remotely. We are now working on developing procedures for implementing IEPs through remote learning. We will host a second family forum during the week of August 17, 2020.

Family Forum: Special Education

Easthampton Public Schools Reopening

August 5, 2020

“Students must receive all services documented in their IEPs through in-person instruction, remote instruction, or a combination of both, with a strong emphasis on providing in-person instruction to the greatest extent possible, while abiding by the current necessary health and safety requirements.”

Hybrid Model: Services in Section B of the Service Delivery Grid of the IEP (in the General Education Classroom)

In School Days

In order to keep traffic in and out of classrooms at a minimum, these services may be provided through any or all of the following:

- Remote instruction in the classroom (both live and pre-recorded lessons; with emphasis on live instruction)
- Intervention developed by the educator or provider and facilitated by a paraeducator who may be assigned to the classroom
- Specialized adaptive practice

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Cohort A	In person	In person	Remote	Remote	Remote
Cohort B	Remote	Remote	Remote	In person	In person

Hybrid Model: Services in Section C of the Service Delivery Grid of the IEP (in Other Settings)

When scheduling services, educators and providers will make every attempt to provide as much in-person instruction as is feasible while taking the necessary health and safety precautions. Services may be provided through any or all of the following:

- In a space outside of the classroom, with proper health and safety precautions
 - Remote instruction in the classroom (both live and pre-recorded lessons; with emphasis on live instruction)
 - Intervention developed by the educator or provider and facilitated by a paraeducator
 - Specialized adaptive practice
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- Services will be scheduled following consultation with the classroom teacher
 - Due to limiting exposure, and in accordance with health and safety precautions, students from different classes will not be grouped together, as was common practice in prior years

Remote Model (and Remote Days in Hybrid Model)

- All services will be delivered remotely through synchronous (live) and asynchronous (recorded, individualized adaptive practice) instruction
- Special education teachers and service providers will consult with the classroom teacher to schedule services
- Teachers and providers will collaborate with families to schedule services and develop an individualized learning plan based on services in the IEP
- Services in the B section of the Service Delivery Grid shall be provided in collaboration with the student's classroom teacher
- Services in the C section of the Service Delivery Grid shall be provided in a small group or 1:1 setting
- Specialized adaptive practice
- Walk-in for related services? OT and PT (feasibility)
- Provide hands-on materials to students
- Point-person for parent communication
- Remote days in the Hybrid Model may be provided by a different teacher or provider

Supporting Remote Learning

- What are the services in the IEP?
- What are the specific challenges the student is experiencing with remote instruction?
 - Motivation?
 - Stamina?
 - Social/emotional difficulties
 - Organization?
 - Work completion?
 - Participation?
- What supplemental supports have been implemented during remote instruction?

Supporting Remote Learning, continued

Additional support staff may be assigned to act as a coach, if needed, to support students and families with organization, building stamina for remote learning, regulating social/emotional challenges, accessing remote learning as delivered by the classroom teacher, other identified areas that are a barrier to successful remote learning

Special Populations

- The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education is urging districts to prioritize in-person instruction for students with significant and complex needs.
- Easthampton is proposing that students in our small, highly specialized programs be offered an enhanced in-person instruction model whether the school year begins in-person (Hybrid Model) or remotely.
- In a Hybrid Model, these students will be offered four days (rather than 2) of in-person instruction.
- In a Remote Model, these students will be offered in-person instruction.
- School reopening plans are subject to School Committee approval.

Evaluations: Initial and Reevaluation

- The district is currently identifying a system to complete in-person evaluations in keeping with health and safety precautions
- Trial run later in August to address postponed evaluations from the Spring 2020
- DESE is releasing guidance this week

IEP Meetings

- IEP meetings will continue being offered through a virtual platform at this time
- IEPs will continue to be provided to parents via DocuSign; postal mail is also available upon parent request
- Options for in-person meetings, when requested by a family, are being explored