

Special Education Real-Time Remote Learning Staff FAQ

Do special education teachers, related service providers, and paraeducators have to provide in-person services during the Real-Time Remote model?

Due to federal and state requirements, some students with IEPs will need to receive in-person services as determined by the IEP team. These will be students who are unable to make progress in a fully virtual model. This determination will be based on student progress data from the spring and throughout the fall.

What do I do if I am considered high risk for complications related to COVID-19 and I am asked to work with students in-person?

All special education staff should be prepared to provide in-person services to students they serve who are not able to make progress in a distance learning environment. If you are in a high risk category for complications related to COVID-19 and are uncomfortable providing in-person services, please contact Human Resources to discuss possible ADA accommodations or leave options.

How many students can I serve at a time during in-person services?

According to guidance from the department of health all in-person services should be delivered in small groups. Per the MOU the group size during in-person special education services is to be no more than 5 students per group. Special education providers should use their professional judgement when scheduling in-person groups. Students who struggle to social distance or follow the COVID health guidelines may need to either 1:1 services or to be part of a group smaller than 5.

How many adults can be in the room during in-person services?

During the Real-time Remote model, the number of staff needed to provide in-person services per group should be kept to a minimum. For example, in a DI class there may be 5 students attending in-person services and 3 staff members who work in the classroom. All 3 staff members may not be needed to work with 5 students. In this case 2 staff members should be available for in-person services and the 3rd staff member should be providing virtual instruction to the students who are not in-person that day.

What should I do if only one student shows up to a virtual lesson and I am all by myself?

Per the MOU staff should not meet with a student by themselves in a virtual environment. Related services providers who typically meet 1:1 with students and are comfortable providing Teletherapy 1:1 can do so. When scheduling virtual groups, it is a good idea to include a couple kids who you know will attend mixed in with those whose attendance may not be as consistent.

How do I amend a students IEP to reflect services during the Real-Time Remote Learning model?

All things IEP amendments can be found on SharePoint using this [link](#).

What should I do if I have a student who does not engage in learning?

If you have a student who is not engaging in learning please follow the district process for reporting non-engagement. This includes letting your school counselor and MTSS specialist know right away. Each

building will have a designated staff members who will follow-up with families when a student is not engaging. Remember it is essential to document attempts to contact the family in Power-Teacher. Please make sure you attempt both phone and email contact.

Do paraeducators get school issued laptops?

Early in the summer SPS ordered over 500 laptops for paraeducators. These laptops are on back order along with many of our student laptops. If your building does not have a laptop available for check out, you may either use your own personal computer, or use a desktop at the building. If you need a web cam for the desktop at the building the special education department can purchase one.

Who will check in students when they arrive for in-person learning?

During the Real-Time Remote model students arriving at the building for in-person learning will need to be greeted as they arrive by car or get off the bus by a paraeducator and principal assistant and escorted into the building. Classroom teachers will have access to the health check app dashboard for their class and will verify before the student's arrival time that they have completed the health check. If a student arrives at school either via car or bus and has not completed the health check form, the principal assistant or another administrator will walk them into the office and parents will be called to verbally verify the health check information and the student's temperature will be taken.

When can my whole class come back for in-person services? I only have 8-10 kids and we could all socially distance, why can't they all come back now for a full day?

The current recommendation of the health department is that limited small group instruction should be considered for those who cannot make progress in a distance learning model. Our plan is to take a phased in approach for our students in special education. Taking a slow approach will give our students and staff time to adjust to the new health and safety protocols. Over the next couple of weeks, we will be working closely with the health department to monitor transmission rates in our area, and if they continue to decrease we will seek further guidance regarding increasing the number of students and the length of the school day for students in our specialized programs.

Do paraeducators have to come into the building if their teacher is providing in-person services?


Special education teachers will be creating weekly schedules for the paraeducator(s) assigned to their room/program and distributing them on Mondays. Paraeducators will be needed to support students virtually and in-person if there are students in their class requiring in-person services. Teachers will work with paraeducators within their classroom and program within the building to equitably distribute the workload. There will be meaningful work assigned to fill the workday.

Will Para Educators receive either their busing and or personal care stipend?

Paraeducators who received the bus stipend last year and remained in the same position this year have been set up by accounting to receive the bus stipend this year. Starting September 10th all paraeducators receiving the bus stipend should work an additional 30 minutes per day. All program paraeducators who normally receive the personal care stipend (MHOH, ABLE, DI, and BI) will continue to do so. Resource room and 1:1 paraeducators will only receive the personal care stipend if providing care during in-person services. If you are a resource room or 1:1 paraeducator and providing in-person

services to a student needing person care, please contact Brandon Bouge via email and he will ensure you receive the stipend.

When will the district provide additional Health and Safety training for staff working with students in-person?

You can view the webinar that was presented today here:  [Staff Webinar Safety Protocols work with students of SPED, ELD, .mp4](#)