

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR PARENTS OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR  
(AS OF 8/14/2020)

## OUR COMMITMENT

### HEALTH & SAFETY

District 33 is committed to providing parents and guardians of students with disabilities with the information necessary to prepare for the 2020-21 school year. We have been working in conjunction with the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and the DuPage County Health Dept. to provide guidance to ensure the safety and health of students, staff, and their families remain our highest priority. It is important to keep in mind that research and guidance related to COVID-19 continues to evolve, and as a result, many districts, including ours, have had to make changes to their original re-opening plans.

## WHEN WILL IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION RESUME FOR STUDENTS WITH AN IEP?

On Thurs. Aug. 6th, the West Chicago Dist. 33 Board of Education voted to push the start of all in-person instruction, including all self-contained special education programs (i.e. RISE, ACHIEVE, STRIVE GAIN), to Dec. 2nd, 2020. This decision was made out of an abundance of caution and was based on the most current data and guidance available at that time.

## IEP'S VS. REMOTE LEARNING PLANS WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

**What is a Remote Learning Plan?** Remote Learning Plan is an alternative plan for providing students with disabilities IEP services and continuity of learning while schools are closed.

**Are IEP's valid during school closures?** Yes, but Remote Learning Plans are used to identify the strategies & services that will be provided during e-learning. It's a separate document that is based on the IEP but is responsive to the unique circumstances of e-learning.

**Are IEP's changed when Distance Learning Plans are created?** No, an IEP is created for use in a school setting, not for temporary situations, such as e-learning.

## WHAT CAN PARENTS DO IF THEY ARE UNABLE TO SUPPORT THEIR CHILD WITH A DISABILITY DURING E-LEARNING?

IEP teams can provide training to parents as well as make recommendations for accommodations or supports in the home environment through the creation of an individualized Distance Learning Plan. Parents of students with disabilities who communicate in a language other than English are also encouraged to contact their child's school to learn about resources that are available to minimize language barriers and ensure ongoing communication is received in their home language as well as English.

## RESOURCES FOR FAMILIES

We're in this together...

**Parents: Supporting Learning During the COVID-19 Pandemic**  
<https://iris.peabody.vanderbilt.edu/module/c19/cresource/#content>

**One-page Guide to At-home Learning**  
<https://cedar.education.ufl.edu/family-guide-to-at-home-learning/>

**COVID-19 Information and Resource Page**  
<https://frcd.org/frcd-covid-19-information-page-frcd-is-here-to-help/>

**Remote Learning Resources Disability-Specific**  
<https://frcd.org/remote-learning-resources/>

**Education and Parenting During COVID-19**  
<https://www.fmptic.org/node/4453>