

Lindale Independent School District

Special Programs Department

Lindale ISD ensures that students with disabilities have access to a free and appropriate public education (FAPE). We also ensure that, to the greatest extent possible, each student with a disability will be provided the special education and related services identified in the student's individual education program (IEP).

General Guidance

Students with disabilities will follow the same general education guidelines and protocols with special consideration given to meet their individual needs. Special education teachers/case managers will collaborate with parents to gather feedback regarding needs of students as the 20-21 school year begins. All instruction will be based on the student's Individual Education Plan (IEP).

In general, ARD/IEP meetings will be conducted either virtually or in-person, depending on the preference of the parents. LISD health and safety protocols will be followed for in-person meetings.

All initial evaluations and reevaluations for eligibility for special education will be conducted in person utilizing established safety protocols in an effort to adhere to all federal and state guidelines. In the event of a short-term closure, every effort will be made to complete an outstanding evaluation once campuses reopen.

Special education instructional and related services will be provided in accordance with the student's IEP either in person or virtually per parent choice as outlined by district guidelines. An ARD/IEP meeting will be conducted for every student who is choosing to attend school virtually, in an effort to outline the provision of services in the student's IEP.

Most instructional and related services can be delivered successfully in the virtual format. However, there are a few instructional and related services that are most effectively delivered in person when possible. Therefore, for students who are choosing to attend school virtually, ARD/IEP committees should consider whether the provision of a hybrid model, receiving some services or instruction in person at school, is appropriate for some services (e.g., Orientation and Mobility, some Physical Therapy, etc.).

In an effort to minimize potential exposure to students participating in in-person services, Lindale ISD will:

- Focus on social distancing, handwashing, hand sanitizer, and wearing a mask for all staff and students ten years of age and older. Wearing a mask for some students with disabilities could be inappropriate; therefore, special considerations will be taken on a case by case basis.. Those concerned about their child wearing a mask should discuss their concern with the child's principal. For students who need visual and communication support, teachers will use social stories, videos, and pictures to help with sanitizing and social distancing procedures.
- Keep each student's belongings separated, using student designated containers or areas in self-contained instructional settings.
- Minimize sharing of high-touch materials (e.g., assign each student his/her own devices/materials for the day when possible).
- Clean self-contained special education classroom multiple times per day.
- Sanitize all materials used daily.
- Utilize grouping and scheduling strategies to reduce exposure.

Special Education Services Delivered In Person

All special education classes will follow district procedures for health and safety.

Students will be taught handwashing techniques and provided frequent opportunities to wash their hands with prompting when necessary. As appropriate, students should engage in supervised hand washing/sanitizing when entering/leaving the classroom, before/after meals, before/after toileting, and other scheduled times during the day.

All service providers will develop schedules that minimize exposure.

Special education services are often delivered in a small group setting with hands-on support. Special education teachers and service providers will take care to reduce any unintentional exposure by:

- Washing and sanitizing hands, tables, and materials between each group or individual student learning sessions
- Supervising transitions:
 - Follow district guidelines
 - Promote social distancing of students in hallways or other common areas
 - Provide visual supports of schedules that highlight social distancing when transitioning between classroom or activities
- Creating supplementary aids and manipulative kits for each student in self-contained settings:
 - Update as needed per instructional needs
 - Follow procedures for sanitizing items prior to adding to a student's kit
 - Laminate supplemental aids so they can be easily cleaned and reused

Special Education Services Delivered Virtually

For special education students whose parents choose virtual learning, the ARD committee will meet and instruction will be delivered according to the student's IEP. Instruction and services will be delivered through the online, district learning platform, Canvas. All teachers and service providers have received training and will deliver robust lessons, instruction, and therapy (as indicated in the IEP). For more information, see the LISD At-Home Learning guidelines. [Lindale ISD Covid-19 At Home Learning](#) For specific questions, contact your child's teacher, case manager, and/or therapist.