

2020-21 School Reopening Plan for Students with Disabilities FAQ

Collier County Public Schools is deeply committed to continuing to serve our students with exceptional needs during changes to operations as a result of the COVID19 pandemic. We remain steadfast in our dedication to provide quality supports and services to students in whichever educational option families choose to begin the 2020-21 school year. The full continuum of Exceptional Student Education (ESE) services will be provided to students with IEP's who enroll in "brick and Mortar Schools," CCPS Classroom Connect, or eCollier Academy.

To assist parents in making a decision regarding the start of the 2020-21 school year, we have developed the following frequently asked questions guide. If you have further questions, please contact the District ESE Department at 377-0153 (English) or 377-0108 (Spanish) or email ESE@collierschools.com

The return-to-school date for school-based ESE Program Specialists is pending due to the change in the academic calendar made at the board meeting on 7-28-20. Please monitor this website as it will be updated when more information is made available. School based ESE Program Specialist contact information can be found by clicking [here](#).

Questions Concerning eCollier Academy and CCPS Classroom Connect

1. Will my student receive the services in their IEP if I enroll in eCollier Academy?

Yes. For students who enroll in eCollier Academy, their existing IEPs will be implemented as intended and through a virtual model. This includes specially designed instruction, case management services and related services. Expect contact from the ESE Program Specialist to schedule a meeting to review your child's Individualized Education Program (IEP) and make any adjustments necessary due to the change in learning environment.

2. My student is on a Modified Curriculum (MC) or an Intensive Behavioral Intervention (IBI) program. Can they enroll in eCollier Academy?

The full continuum of Exceptional Student Education (ESE) services will be provided to students with IEP's who enroll in eCollier Academy. For students receiving supports and services in a special class program (MC, IBI), the asynchronous, flexible model will be provided through CCPS Classroom Connect (option 2). This *will allow your child to stay in attendance at their special program school site and maintain the flexibility needed in their daily schedule*. Based on enrollment, some special class programs may be combined with partner school sites with similar programs, however, when you choose for your child to return to a school campus, they will attend their original special program school site.

3. Will my student receive their behavior management or counseling services if we enroll in eCollier Academy?

All related services identified in a student's IEP will be delivered through tele-therapy/virtually including direct and indirect services and consultation with parents, teachers and students. For students receiving supports and services in a special class program (i.e. daily behavior management or counseling in an IBI class), services will be provided through *CCPS Classroom Connect (option 2)*.

4. What training will the eCollier Academy teachers have for working with students with special needs?

All CCPS teachers receive annual professional learning related to educating students with special needs. This includes training on the best practices in virtual implementation of IEP accommodations and services, progress monitoring, differentiated instruction, and delivery of services. eCollier Academy teachers will also receive training specific to the needs of the students with IEP's enrolled in their courses.

Questions Concerning IEP Implementation, Service Delivery and Accommodations

5. Who will monitor progress towards IEP goals for eCollier Academy?

Each student with an IEP is assigned a Case Manager at all CCPS schools, including eCollier Academy. A fundamental component of this role is monitoring and reporting progress on IEP goals.

6. How will IEP meetings take place?

For now, IEP meetings will continue to be held virtually or telephonically.

Questions Concerning PPE and Social Distancing

7. I am concerned my child with a disability will not be able to tolerate wearing a facial covering and/or safety glasses. What are my options?

Please visit the ESE Website at <https://www.collierschools.com/ease> to view tip sheets and videos for ways to work with your child in the coming weeks on wearing personal protective equipment. During the District on campus summer programs, students had great success in increasing their ability to tolerate facial coverings. If your child continues to be unable to tolerate wearing a facial covering, an IEP meeting will be held to consider other personal protection options, determine appropriate accommodations, strategies, and supports necessary for them to make adequate progress towards their IEP goals.

8. I am concerned my child with a disability or medical issue will not be able to follow the health and safety modifications on campus, what should I do?

If your child currently has Individual Education Plan (IEP), and has serious medical conditions that could affect what option you would choose, please contact your healthcare provider as well as your school principal and request an IEP team meeting. This will help in working through your concerns and ways the District may be able to provide you with appropriate accommodations and supporting interventions.

9. Will my child have to wear the facial covering during related services, such as Speech Therapy?

An equally effective substitute mask will be utilized during therapy sessions that require an unobstructed view of the face.

10. My child is Deaf/Hard of Hearing (DHH) and needs to be able to see the faces of the people with whom he is interacting. How will this work with the face masks?

The District will be providing specialized facial coverings with clear panels so that individuals who are DHH can observe the necessary parts of the face for effective communication.

Questions Related to Pre-Kindergarten (Pre-K)

11. I have a Pre-K student with an IEP. Is there a virtual option for PK ESE?

Children enrolled in the PreK Exceptional Student Education (ESE) programs will be able to attend school in a traditional classroom OR participate in virtual learning.