



SOUTHERN WESTCHESTER BOCES

BOARD OF COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

CENTER FOR SPECIAL
SERVICES

1606 Old Orchard Street, White Plains,
New York 10604

(914) 948-7271 • Fax

(914) 948-7598

Updated Remote Learning Plans for the Center for Special Services May 1, 2020

Families and Districts

As school closures and remote learning continue, we remain in contact with students, families and districts as we partner around how to provide the best program possible. Now that we know closures will continue through the end of the 2019-2020 school year, our planning is even more important. We are thinking deeply about the learning, support, safety and well-being of our students as we continue to apply the most updated guidance from the state and federal government. Our teachers and support staff, related service providers and clinicians, and administrative team are working tirelessly to be creative in the ways we bring instruction and related services to students. We continue to miss your children and look forward to reuniting our SWBOCES community. In the meantime, our teachers, service providers, and administrators will remain connected to you and students through various methods. Please continue to reach out to us if we can be helpful in any way.

SWBOCES online remote learning opportunities continue. Our approach to remote learning reflects our partnership with districts and our ongoing support of students and families. Our faculty is using a variety of methods and tools to build both student skills and support adult participation in the home to foster student access and engagement. We thank you for your ongoing patience and participation, and we remain committed to ensuring that learning is ongoing to the greatest extent possible and that our connection to our students remains intact and meaningful during the school closures. Our educators and service providers will continue to work in partnership with families to keep our students positively engaged socially, emotionally, and academically.

Remote Learning

The SWBOCES remote learning plans continue to evolve as we assess student learning needs alongside the guidance we receive from NYSED. Current learning activities reinforce student skills and introduce new student learning with the support of a variety of resources including video, audio, and other types of online content. Assignments and learning activities are designed with student needs and levels of independence in mind. Activities may reinforce already taught concepts, introduce and deepen learning around key content, or allow for important practice of key skills.

What does remote learning look like?

Our remote learning plans are evolving at our varied school programs as closures continue. While faculty and providers continue to use familiar tools and resources, we have expanded our synchronous learning opportunities to meet students' needs. Teachers, teaching assistants, classroom aides, one-to-one aides, related service providers and clinicians are utilizing various platforms and methods to deliver services and instruction.

Google Classroom and Google Apps. for Education

In most programs, teachers and related service providers are sharing remote learning activities via Google Classroom or through their designated classroom websites. Teachers in some programs have established "office hours" so that students have particular times that their teachers are available to field student questions and to conduct "mini-lessons" as needed. If students have questions about assignments as provided in Google Classroom, they can also email their teachers or use the "comments" feature to communicate with their teachers regarding particular assignments. Parents/guardians can also be in direct contact with teachers, related service providers and clinicians to review assignments or discuss student progress and needs.

Online Tools and Resources

As you have probably seen, there are many online resources that faculty and staff utilize in their instructional practices with students. These vary by instructional program and students' goals and needs. Some of the resources you will see in use that students (and some parents/guardians too) are mastering in the remote environment are:

- iReady
- Read 180
- Nearpod
- Kahoot
- Discovery Education
- Learning A-Z
- Gizmos
- News2You
- Other recommended resources can be found on the [SWBOCES Special Services webpage](#).

Other Remote Learning Opportunities

Teachers and related service providers will also continue to share additional remote learning activities via Outlook email, sharing prerecorded videos, telephonic (calling through Google Meet), or telepractice conferencing using platforms such as Google Hangout/Meet. Some families may not have access to these tools, in which case, contact with teachers and providers will be by phone, and materials may be shared in hard copy via US Postal Service.

Remote CSE Meetings and New Student Intakes

Since the start of remote leaning and the closures of school buildings, we have participated in 125 remote CSE meetings. We continue to work with districts and families through the approved virtual platforms so that Annual Review and Reevaluation meetings can continue as scheduled. Virtual student intakes are ongoing. Once a potential new student intake packet is shared through our Central Intake, it will move forward internally to the appropriate school program and the principal and intake team at that program will follow our established process. The building level intake team will then reach out to districts and parents/guardians for a virtual intake meeting. Some intake processes will come to conclusion through a virtual process, others may resume once schools reopens.

Related Service Provision

Both individual and group related service and counseling sessions will continue using a variety of methods depending upon access and student ability to participate. Some may be conducted virtually using Google Meet unless parent/guardian opts out. Google Meet, an approved Ed Law 2d platform will be utilized for synchronous sessions. Headphones for student use are recommended.

Activities, resources, and pre-recorded videos are shared through Google Classroom, email, other methods depending upon students' and families' individual circumstances.

Parent/guardian consults are also in progress to support student participation, access, and well-being.

For OT and PT sessions, providers may model exercises or provide materials for use at home when appropriate to ensure student safety.

When necessary, as per guidance, related service providers may reconfigure sessions to provide the requisite amount of time as per IEP.

Remaining Connected

Teachers, related service providers, clinicians and support staff will be regularly engaging with parents/guardians and with students, when appropriate, through emails, online platforms, Google Classroom and/or by phone. Updates regarding school closures, student progress and grade reporting will be shared through building principals and the Director's office, and will be posted on both individual school and Special Services webpages, and sent through SWBOCES Blackboard Alert system. Please continue to contact your building principal with any updates to your personal information including home and email address and home and mobile contact numbers as we want to ensure you have all necessary information.

Where can students and parents find the remote learning information?

SWBOCES will be posting information, letters to home and districts, and resources to the Special Services webpage on our website.