

School ReopeningSpecial Education

Lisa M Fallon, Director of Special Services

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I hope all of our High Bridge families are doing well. Over the last month, High Bridge staff and community members have been working on plans to safely reopen our school. As you are aware, these plans and requirements are comprehensive. The schedule that has been chosen and presented at the July 30th public BOE meeting for your review and county approval, is the Hybrid model which will reduce the number of students in each class allowing for social distancing and a lower student to teacher ratio. Additionally, families have the option to have their children continue to learn remotely.

To coincide with these decisions, the Special Education Department has been researching best practices to ensure student needs are being met through the hybrid and fully virtual models. During this time, providers on your child's IEP team are working collaboratively to ensure enhanced delivery of instruction and related service. We continue to plan and adjust program details. Therapists, teachers, and child study team members will be available for virtual meetings to provide additional support and consultation about the learning process when we transition back to school in September.

The goal of our teaching staff and therapists is to continue to provide services to our students through different modalities designed in consideration of the student's needs and learning format (hybrid or fully remote). Therapists and teachers will be available to meet one on one or in small groups to provide their instruction.

A FAQ sheet to help answer questions you may have is provided.

Please reach out if you have any additional questions using the email address:
re-opening@hbschools.org

Frequently Asked Questions Sheet

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- **Will students receive resource center instruction?** Yes, every student will have a schedule and be assigned to the programs and services outlined to their IEP. For example, if a student has an IEP which includes Resource Center Pull Out Replacement, the student will be assigned to a resource center class for that academic subject. If the student is learning through the hybrid model, the resource center teacher will meet with the student live on days in school and will schedule Google Meets and live instruction on the scheduled virtual days. For students fully virtual, the student will have a schedule with their resource center program. The Special Education Teacher will set up Google Meets and live instruction for the students based on their IEP needs.
- **How will my child receive in-class support virtually?** Special Education Teachers will be assigned to in-class support classes based on student IEPs. This support will be a combination of face to face and/or virtual for students. There will be a high level of support in the virtual classroom as well as teacher collaboration to ensure student needs are being met and accommodations/modifications are in place.
- **How will my child receive related services?** Our therapists are developing an intervention plan based on the individual needs of each student. Some students have done very well with the virtual therapies and this is a way to reduce pull out from their live instructional time (face to face). If

virtual therapies are not an effective platform for the student, the therapists will minimize virtual therapies and coordinate a schedule for students while in school. For students receiving instruction 100% remotely, virtual therapies will be scheduled.

- **How will individual goals and objectives in IEP be measured and met?** Despite the format of instructional delivery, each child's needs will be met. We will continue to measure goals and objectives using progress monitoring data collection and work sampling. Specialized intervention programs will be utilized and instruction will be delivered virtually with consideration and awareness of the individual student. Parents will receive progress reports at the same time as report cards.
- **Will IEP meetings be held virtually?** Yes, to ensure continued safety of staff, students and our community, all IEP meetings will be held virtually. We will continue to use Google Meet which allows for an option for calling in, using the app, or using the computer video features.
- **Will my child still have a case manager assigned as a main contact?** Yes, case managers will continue to be assigned and follow up with families and students. You will receive an informational letter in August identifying your child's case manager. Please reach out to me or Lee Rozycki (CST Secretary) at any time with questions or concerns.
- **What if my child is not making meaningful progress with the hybrid or fully virtual format of instruction?** If at any time a student is not making meaningful progress, a teacher or parent may request an IEP meeting to discuss necessary changes and additional interventions needed to ensure success.

- **Will the Specialized programs have a different schedule?** Yes, due to the instructional platform in the specialized programs, the students in these classes will attend school on a different schedule.
- **Will my child receive instruction on days they are scheduled to be virtual?** Yes, a virtual schedule will be provided to all students in resource rooms so they can have optimal instruction time. Some students may require one on one instruction or small group. The Special Education Teacher will make the necessary accommodations to meet the needs of each learner.

If you have any additional questions, please feel free to email them to: re-opening@hbschools.org

We will also be happy to get back to you with any individual concerns or questions.

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