

Special Education Q&A



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Klamath Falls City Schools has determined that school will begin this school year in comprehensive distance learning for at least six weeks for all students, including special populations. Prior to the end of this six-week period, county Covid-19 metrics will be reviewed to determine whether or not students can return to onsite learning.

The Special Education Leadership has been working hard to prepare for both distance and onsite learning. This is the first in a series of releases to provide information to families regarding special education services during the 2020-21 school year.

Will special education services be provided in comprehensive distance learning?

Yes!

What will that look like for my child?

Every student is unique and has different learning needs. The IEP team, of which you are a part, will convene after school begins September 8th to review the IEP. The team will evaluate the needs of the student and create a plan to meet those needs through a distance learning model.

What can I expect from my child's case manager?

Case managers will initiate contacting families the first week back to schedule a meeting to review services. If you have not heard from your child's case manager by September 15th, contact the building principal or Special Services Department.

What will services look like?

Services are individualized and based on student needs. Most K-5 students will attend either a morning or afternoon session with their peers. During this time, specialists will coordinate with teachers the delivery of appropriate instructional materials and ensure accommodations are in place. During a time that our identified students with an IEP are not in a general education session, they will receive interventions based on their IEP. These interventions will be delivered individually and/or in small groups using Zoom or Google Meets.

For students in self-contained programs (RISE, Bridge, GOALS), specialists will coordinate appropriate learning activities with families based on students' goals and objectives. Interventions will also be delivered individually or in small groups using Zoom or Google Meets.

“Dedicated to helping all students do their best work and become their best selves.”

For most students in grades 6-12, students will be part of a general education cohort. Specialists will be working with your student's teachers to ensure accommodations and modifications are in place. If your student is in a self-contained program, services will be delivered remotely by the special education teacher both individually and in small groups using Zoom or Google Meets.

Will distance learning look differently than it did in the Spring?

Yes! Over the summer, the Special Education Leadership Team has been evaluating curriculum that can be delivered in person as well as virtually. Instruction and interventions will be delivered individually and in small groups "live" with consent from families. Students will have access to chromebooks and internet devices. The district has purchased a learning platform called Canvas and there are multiple Canvas Coaches in the district, including a coach specific to special education.

What next?

We are currently considering a process to provide limited in-person instruction to special education students. The Oregon Department of Education released guidance that allows school districts to offer limited in-person services for qualifying groups of students. This option is part of the Oregon Department of Education's comprehensive distance learning guidelines. It is voluntary and works in support of students who receive Comprehensive Distance Learning (CDL) as their core learning platform.

If you have other questions, contact the Special Services Department at 541-883-4745 or email at specialservices@kfcityschools.org.

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