



School Association for Special Education in DuPage  
Melinda McGuffin, Ed.D.  
Executive Director

August 5, 2020

Dear SASED Parents/Guardians,

Summer vacation is coming to a close as the 2020-2021 school year is quickly approaching. Closing out the last school year, I was holding on to the hope that a return to learning this Fall would be a return to school as usual. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 virus is still with us and as a result SASED has carefully considered all of the available information including the known opening plans of our member districts and all of the available guidance to SASED from the Illinois State Board of Education, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Illinois Department of Public Health, and the DuPage County Health Department to make a decision on how to start the upcoming school year.

To begin the 2020-2021 school year all SASED classroom and services will begin with instruction and services provided to students through **remote learning**.

**For students who attend SASED classrooms located in member districts**

For students who attend SASED program classrooms including: STARS, Multi-Needs, Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Vision, Directions at Benjamin #25 and Project SEARCH, the first day of school for your child will be based on the start date of the district where the classroom is located that your student attends. Remote learning will begin on this day.

**For students who attend SASED programs at Southeast School**

Students who attend Southeast School, the Directions program at Southeast School will start based on the SASED calendar program start date.

*Student start:* Southeast School and Directions at Southeast School: August 24, 2020.

**Project SEARCH**

Students who attend Project SEARCH will start based on the SASED calendar Transition Program start date.

*Student start:* August 19, 2020.

**SASED Transition Program**

Students who attend the SASED Transition Program will start based on the SASED calendar program start date.

*Student start:* August 26, 2020.

**SASED Itinerant and Related Services**

If your child receives SASED itinerant or related services in your home school district, services will align to start with the start of your home district's school year. These services will begin remotely and will also phase in to in-person services through a rolling opening.

*Next steps:*

- **September 28, 2020:** A target date for a decision to begin hybrid instruction for SASED classrooms.
- **Hybrid Instruction:** Hybrid instruction schedules will be based on the plans developed by the classroom's host school district in combination with SASED protocols based on the available guidance.
- **Remote learning option:** Parents/guardians will have the option to keep their child in a remote learning option.



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**Getting started:**

You will receive an individual phone call to offer additional feedback on how we can work together to support you and your child as well as to receive information specific to your child including:

- the first date of instruction for your child's classroom for students in SASED programs.
- information about starting with remote learning for this school year.
- the status of SASED's acquisition of a 1:1 device for your student.
- the process of gaining medical certification for a mask exemption, if applicable.
- your family's preference for continuation of remote learning, if applicable.

While many of us were hoping to return to in-person learning to start the year, SASED is committed to making sure that each student and staff member is returning to a learning environment that is as safe as possible. The rolling open plan will allow us to accomplish that, through careful consideration of each district, classroom, and student need. We thank you for your continued patience and understanding through this process.

Please reach out to your child's program administrator for any additional questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M. McGuffin".

Dr. Melinda McGuffin  
Executive Director