

SASED Parent Newsletter

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SASED Program Update

Welcome to the 2020-2021 School Year! In an effort to connect with the SASED parent community more regularly, SASED administration will be sending home a weekly newsletter to families to give them information about the status of SASED's rolling open plan throughout its' 18 member districts.

In August 2020, a plan for a Rolling Open for in-person instruction was presented to SASED's Board of Control. At that time, SASED leadership indicated that classroom re-opening plans would be created in conjunction with host district re-opening plans. As you may be aware, since that time, many districts have changed their re-opening plans in accordance with new IDPH, ISBE or CDC guidance. This guidance has changed at least weekly, making the planning process change directions frequently.

On Friday, August 28th, The DuPage County Health Department released a return to school framework, related to the risk of transmission in the county. Currently, DuPage County Health Department indicates that it is in the "moderate transmission risk status". Guidance for schools in DuPage County include:

- Hybrid Learning Model: Most students participate in in-person learning, some students participate in virtual learning.
- Larger in-person classes, activities, and events cancelled.
- Cohorting, alternating schedules, and staggered schedules are applied.

- Students and staff follow all steps to protect themselves and others, such as proper use of face masks, social distancing, and hand hygiene.
- Regularly scheduled cleaning and disinfections of frequently touched areas.
- Students and teachers do not share objects.

This status is subject to change with metrics that are monitored at the local and state level. The transmission status and corresponding guidance will be updated and communicated to school districts in DuPage County each Friday.

Nonetheless, SASED program teams are working diligently to develop plans for hybrid instruction models to begin September 28, 2020. Additional communication about how the DCHD framework will impact these plans will be sent out next week.

Hybrid models will prioritize bringing students into in-person instruction to address IEP goals in functional and academic domains, while continuing to provide synchronous and asynchronous instruction opportunities daily.

Program Administrators and classroom teachers will be reaching out to families in late September to communicate specific plans for each classroom and student regarding the hybrid programming.

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Related Services News

Some SASED member districts are re-opening for in person related services, such as OT, PT, Vision Itinerant, and Hearing Itinerant, and O&M services. As those decisions are made, SASED is working with districts to support getting those services in place.

Those services may look a little different for our students this year, given the additional health protocols that SASED is following.

For students who require support within the “6 feet social distance bubble”, a modified session will be provided with enhanced PPE for the staff member, as well as time limits for contact to decrease the risk of transmission.

When in-person services resume in a SASED member district, an email will be sent from service providers to communicate the schedule and protocols put into place.

Getting Our Students Prepared

We are all living in a new reality with a lot of changes, and we all know that some children and young adults with disabilities will face challenges associated with these changes. The CDC and government officials are recommending that everyone wear face masks when going out into public. There is a tip sheet attached to this email that may support parents in preparing their student to use a mask for in person instruction.

For a video social story on mask wearing:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lnP-uMn6q_U

For a printable social story on mask wearing:

https://www.ucucedd.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/I-Can-Wear-a-Mask-Social-Story_FINAL.pdf