

# Remote Learning:

## Guidance for Families of Students with Special Needs

As we approach the reopening of schools for the 2020-21 school year, CMSD remains committed to ensuring that each of our students, including those with special needs, has the appropriate services and supports needed for success this year.

Due to current public health concerns, CMSD announced its decision in July to begin the school year in a fully remote learning environment. Like school districts across the nation, CMSD is adapting as needed to the unprecedented challenges that come with the need to educate children in an environment that requires strict guidelines for public health and safety. That is particularly true of our special educators who are working to provide students with disabilities appropriate educational services within those guidelines.

In the midst of so much uncertainty, one aspect of our work remains constant—our goal to provide services closest to the manner prescribed within each student’s individualized education program (IEP), with good intentions and a good faith effort. Our hope is for all students to have equity in access and quality engagement during this remote learning period. To assist us in that effort, we have conducted surveys, gathered feedback and created work groups to address issues, challenges and concerns.

We recognize that not all families have the same resources to support their children through the pandemic. Among other stressors, families throughout our community are challenged with

adults working from home while trying to also support a student’s remote learning needs at home. For students with special learning needs, all of this becomes even more challenging. Please be assured that your child’s IEP team is ready to review your child’s IEP with you to determine how best to provide services and supports in light of these circumstances.

As we prepare to engage in that important process, there is much that families can do to ensure you are heard and that your children are ready to learn:

- Trust the process.
- Communicate with your building IEP team to answer questions or concerns regarding your child’s IEP.
- Keep all documentation related to the IEP.
- Review your Ohio Parent Procedural Safeguards Booklet.
- Visit our District’s special education website for updates.

We look forward to partnering with you to ensure the best possible learning experiences for your child during these extraordinary times. Send a message to [SpecialEducation@ClevelandMetroSchools.org](mailto:SpecialEducation@ClevelandMetroSchools.org), or call our Special Education Office at **216.838.7733** for assistance.