



## SAHUARITA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

### COVID-19 Guidance for Parents/Guardians of Students with IEPs – FAQs

**Question:** Will my child continue to receive IEP services during the brick and mortar school closure (currently through August 17/ or if extended beyond that date)?

**Answer:** SUSD is continuing to advance the current plan for continued instruction for all students during the school closure. If/when students begin online instruction, or if work is sent home for students, every effort will be made to provide appropriate instructional programming for students with IEPs.

**Question:** What if my child's IEP is due 1st quarter?

**Answer:** The meeting could be held through a conference call through a landline, cell phone, or computer. You should be hearing from your student's case manager about scheduling a meeting remotely. Currently, meetings will not be held in person per guidance from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on the importance of physical distancing during the COVID-19 pandemic.

As the parent/guardian of a student with an IEP, you have the right to request that the IEP meeting be postponed until after students return to school. Please contact your child's case manager/special education teacher through email (available through PowerSchool) if this is your request. The current IEP will be implemented upon the student's return to school and until the IEP team convenes.

**Question:** Does the IEP need to be changed due to the school closure?

**Answer:** Per the Office of Special Education Programs, the federal organization that oversees special education services, the provision of an alternate mode of instructional delivery, such as online learning, during a district, countywide or statewide school closure does not require an IEP amendment.

If your child receives special education services, the IEP case manager will contact you shortly after classes resume at school sites to discuss the individual needs of your child.

**Question:** What if my child was being evaluated by the school psychologist or speech language pathologist (SLP) or is due (1st quarter) for a triennial evaluation?

**Answer:** If the assessments have been completed, then the school psychologist or SLP will be reaching out to schedule a meeting remotely through a phone or video conference. Currently, meetings will not be held in person. The psychologist or SLP may request a 30-day extension due to the school closure.

If the assessments have not been completed, the school psychologist or SLP will be reaching out to discuss the MET process in the remote environment resulting from the pandemic. Every effort will be made to complete the evaluation in a timely manner given COVID-19 CDC physical distancing guidance, as well as state guidance.

### Department of Student Services

 520.625.3502

 350 W. Sahuarita Rd, Sahuarita, AZ 85629

 [www.susd30.us](http://www.susd30.us)

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**Question:** What if my child has speech, occupational/physical therapy, or school based counseling services on their IEP? How will these be provided during the school closure?

**Answer:** Your child's regular SUSd provider (outlined through district assignments for the 20-21 School Year) or another SUSd practitioner will coordinate the related service(s) stipulated on your child's IEP. You should be contacted by these providers as soon as school is in session (remotely or otherwise).

**Question:** What work will my child be provided if they are served through an extended resource special education classroom or require significantly modified work? Will I have contact with my child's teacher?

**Answer:** You will be contacted by your child's case manager to determine what remote access you have at home (e.g. computer/tablet, wifi/internet service). If you don't have either of these capabilities at home, then the case manager will work with you to outline other resources that can be used and/or provide those materials for you to pick up (or to be distributed) from a designated location. Your child's case manager will be making contact with you via telephone or email (if no other contact methods are available) regularly throughout the duration of the school closure.

**Question:** What if my child is below grade level? Can I pick up hard-copy for a different grade than what they are enrolled in?

**Answer:** Please work with your child's case manager to determine what materials they will be providing aligned with your child's IEP. All students are to access the general education curriculum with accommodations and/or modifications provided by the special education teacher and/or related service providers as identified in the IEP. The case manager will also coordinate the provision of specially-designed instruction in this remote environment.

The case manager will contact you shortly after classes resume at school sites to discuss the individual needs of your child and the IEP team may convene to determine any needed changes in programming.

**Question:** How will SUSd special education services be provided during the school closure?

**Answer:** Since the beginning of the school closure in March that has resulted from the COVID-19 pandemic, Sahuarita Unified School District (SUSD) teachers and staff have continued to work to identify ways to meaningfully provide special education services for our students. During the (brick and mortar) school closure, the provision of specially-designed instruction and related services, including speech therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, and counseling, will be provided through the Google Meets/other video web conference application, over the phone, or by individualized work (aligned to the IEP) provided to the family by the students' service providers. Services being offered through Google Meets, and any other online format, may be provided to students individually or in small groups. If you have questions about the methodology of service delivery for your child during the school closure, please contact your child's case manager or related service provider.

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**Question:** Who do I contact if I have more questions?

**Answer:** Please contact your child's case manager (they return to work on 7/29). If you need further assistance, you can contact the site administration or reach out to the Student Services Department at 625-3502 x1020. Please leave a message with your child's name and the school they attend and you will receive a call back. You can also view all parent updates (for parents/guardians of students with IEPs) throughout the school closure on the SUSD COVID-19 web page at <https://susd30.us/district/district-services/health/coronavirus-disease-2019/>

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**Question:** What if I choose to enroll my child in the Sahuarita Digital Pathways Academy (SDPA), even after school is back open for brick and mortar attendance? What will happen to their services, in that instance?

**Answer:** Please remember that all determinations regarding a student with an IEP's services and related programming are made by the IEP team and based on data. With that in mind, your registration in the SDPA will be forwarded to your student's case manager at the school site in order to schedule an IEP team meeting to discuss any potential for changes in programming beyond those outlined in the current IEP. Once those determinations have been made by the team, the IEP may need to be updated and the next steps regarding SDPA registration can be addressed.

**Note:** Special Education services offered through SDPA may not be provided by the student's case manager/special education teacher (from the school site) and may, instead, be provided by a different SUSD special education teacher/related service provider.

**Note:** If you are considering registration in the SDPA (due to safety concerns), please register by Friday 7/17/2020. This will allow for additional planning to continue. If (as additional information becomes available or the IEP team meets to discuss programming) it is determined that participation in this type of distance programming is not appropriate, registration at the school site will be permissible.

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