Continuous Learning Options - Special Education
Reopening / Recovery- COVID 19

The South Laporte County Special Education Cooperative’s objective is to ensure that the school opening plans are inclusive and equitable for educators and students alike by humanizing environments that are conducive to learning.

To note: Each category and in some cases sub category, include levels in which they are to take effect. Working definition of threat levels noted below.

**Green:** Traditional Learning (brick and mortar): School buildings are open with additional cleaning, safety, and protective measures in place. Variations in programming will exist where students are at high risk of contracting the Coronavirus because of their health status. Prevention, Response, and Intervention practices will be put into place to minimize staff and student exposure of the virus and respond when cases of exposure are reported. After school activities will take place after intervention plans are approved for each activity.

**Yellow:** Hybrid, Virtual/Remote/Distance Learning (hereafter described as Distance Learning and traditional learning: Students will be assigned either a traditional schedule and/or a distance learning schedule. (See possible scenarios sub section 1 for more information.) Prevention, Response, and Intervention practices will be put into place to minimize staff and student exposure of the virus and respond when cases of exposure are reported. After school activities will take place after intervention plans are approved for each activity.

**Red:** 100% participation in distance learning activities until community spread decreases and then transitions back to the Yellow Hybrid and traditional learning level. School grounds and properties will be closed to the public and opened for essential functions and staff. All after school extracurricular activities are cancelled until further notice.

### A. Materials Required PPE (Green/ Yellow)

1. Gloves
2. Masks- wear as much as reasonably possible. various types dependent on the disability, need to see facial expressions, anxiety, sensory concerns etc. / protective gear- staff/ students (visitors when necessary)( specialized clear masks / shields as needed)
3. Hand sanitizer
4. Thermometers- touch free-staff -
5. Acrylic Guard panels for evaluators and administrative assistants
6. Wipes to clean down rooms and surfaces frequently/ disinfectant
7. Touch free trash cans etc.
8. Desks faced in the same direction (Arranging instructional spaces)- seating charts
9. Clean toys in between use
10. Speech teachers and some teachers of DHH may need clear masks.
11. Floor marking- as directed per school system
12. Signage- consistent with corporation
13. Directed foot traffic (adjusting for high traffic, paying attention to vulnerable students)
14. Enter doors and Exit doors
15. Social distancing. Follow each school's guidelines.
16. Physical Barriers/ dividers

B. Training: (Green/ Yellow/ Red)
1. Health risks and local, state and federal guidelines
2. Special Education policies and procedures regarding illness, and providing FAPE
3. Tracking student and staff absences and reasons
4. Procedures for and training on specific schedules for classrooms and students/ incorporate, time for handwashing, sanitizing, etc.
5. Health care plans.
6. New concerns regarding - drills within the building and specific to students with Special Needs
7. Procedural Manual - projected to be updated and additions made to the continuous learning section- add what has worked and what to do in case there is a total shutdown again, partial shutdown etc.. ( almost completed- July 8- review and revise with Supervisors upon their return)
8. Add training on how to allow visitors within the building- protocol
9. Google Meet training/etiquette
10. Minimizing congestion for entering, exiting building
11. Addressing mental wellness and self care programs for staff and students.
12. Survey to parents and training for parents on technology/ continuous learning etc.

C. Case Conference decisions: (Green/ Yellow/ Red)
1. Recovery Services- ie ( compensatory, ESY) - ( individual basis- student did not participate or less than 50% participation- teacher assessments to provide data on loss of skills)/Academic and social emotional support
2. Case conference decision as to how the student comes back - what services will be offered.
3. Revise health care plans, specific emotional well being plans
4. Inform all parties of plans - insure that staff and students have an understanding of policies and procedures.

Subsection 1: Possible Scenarios:
- Back full days - regular calendar
- Staggered calendar
- Partial days - ½ day students A.M./ part P.M. to reduce number of students at one time
- Students doing a combination of elearning and traditional lessons
- Distance Learning
• Distance Learning for beginning of the year and by November dependent on the state number of cases transition to traditional instruction
• Stagger days/ Some students attend Tue/Thurs and some Mon/ Wed/ Friday and then flip the next week
• Strictly a case conference decision for students( Parents decide distance learning or in building)
• Pre-K - 4th in class, others distance learning.
• Distance Learning(remote/ or virtual on Mon/Fri, in class Tues/Wed/Thurs
• Mon Tues traditional instruction, Wed Distance Learning
• Late start days

D. Staff
1. All staff back in the classroom (Green)
2. Some staff assigned to remote/ distance learning , but would be in the building./ some staff brick and mortar (Green/ Yellow)
3. Some staff assigned small groups in alternate settings. (Green/ Yellow)
4. One or more staff providing homebound within the school day in homes or other settings (Green/ Yellow/ Red)
5. Review command structure within our Administration (Green/ Yellow/ Red)
6. Review importance of having emergency lesson plans done ahead and specific (Green/Yellow/ Red)
7. Prepare for the need for additional staff due to the absence of employees. (Green/ Yellow/ Red)
8. Increased costs/ reduced funding (Green/ Yellow/ Red)How many staff are needed?
9. Ensure that the same staff stay with the same students as much as possible (Green/ Yellow)
10. Address recess and use of playground equipment (Green/ Yellow) (Use of staff during these times)
11. Survey for staff every day (Green/Yellow) -(Teachers will take a personal survey each day, along with did you take the temperature today.)
12. Staff should report when there has been exposure to the virus or they have symptoms.
13. See district guidelines for additional information.

E. Training (Green/ Yellow/ Red)
• All staff training would be performed in small groups and socially distanced- some virtual training.

F. Field Trips (Green/ Yellow/ Red)
• All field trips are suspended at this time- virtual field trips are encouraged

G. Community Outings: (Green/ Yellow)
- Waiver signed by parent/guardian and student if age appropriate
- Per administrative directive

**H. Job Programs:**
- Waiver signed by parent/guardian and student if age appropriate
- Will be job specific and follow CDC guidelines

**I. Changes to Contract Language for Employees**
- Will be compensated for services delivered during continuous learning education except for on waiver days, or snow days that will be made up

**J. Address Each Area Specifically**
Each eligibility under the law in Indiana will be addressed within their service area

1. Medically Fragile
2. DD
3. Emotionally Disabled
4. Emotional Sensory Communication (autism)
5. Mild Disabilities
6. Speech
7. Lifeskills (moderate, severe/profound, multiple)
8. Orthopedically impaired
9. Blind/ Low Vision (Deaf Blind)
10. TBI
11. Other Health Impaired
12. Deaf/ Hard Hearing

**K. Service Areas**
Chapter 12 of the South LaPorte County Special Education Cooperative procedural manual will address each area of service for continuous learning. It includes:

1. Autism consultant
2. Behavior consultants
3. Para professionals
4. Diagnostic Staff
5. Instructional Strategist
6. Life skills
7. ED
8. ESC Autism
9. Alternative school (UNITY)
10. Adult services (ASPIRE, Work experience, UNITY)

11. Mild disabilities (LD, Mild)
12. OT/PT
13. Speech therapist
14. Blind low vision/ Deaf hard and hearing
15. Administrative assistants
16. Administrators
17. Interpreter
18. Art therapist
19. Preschool
20. Audiologist

L. Food Service
1. Staggered lunches
2. Spacing of 6 feet
3. Most vulnerables use alternative settings
4. Use of PPE materials, e.g., face masks, during feedings or close interactions
5. Packaged food specifically for those with food allergies, immunocompromised students, and/or students with excessive salivation.

M. Transportation
1. 6 feet of distance
2. Modifying bus schedule to address the most vulnerable students
3. Sanitizing busses for students and drivers
4. Staggered bus routes
5. Utilizing different modes of transportation (Activity buses, Transporte)
6. Use of masks, gloves

N. Student procedures (Green/ Yellow)
1. Grouping (Bubble/ recess/ in class participation)
2. Hand washing
3. Face masks (percent of face covering during the school day)-as possible/ encouraged
4. Follow school procedures/- special considerations for specific students with special needs in intense/ IEP specific programs
5. See district guidelines for additional information.

O. Visitor Procedures: (Green/ Yellow)
1. Parent/guardian spacing - Come only to the front office. Surveys will be given and temperature taken. Staff and students will be called to the office. Designated area for meeting - social distancing and clean after every meeting.
2. Case conferences (Online, in-person)
3. Separate health care area for suspected symptomatic guests, staff, or students
4. Designated staff member to address suspected case of covid-19 (all eligibility areas)
5. Classroom guests/visitors will be screened
6. See district guidelines for additional information.