

Frequently Asked Questions

For Parents/Guardians/Families

of students who receive services from SSD in partner districts

Q: Why are schools closed?

A: Based on guidance from the St. Louis County Health Department, it was decided that schools would be closed until at least April 6. This will allow school districts to clean and disinfect schools and minimize the risk that students or staff will be exposed to someone who has COVID-19 (coronavirus).

Q: How are schools educating children while schools are closed?

A: The Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) is allowing school districts to continue their students' education in a variety of ways and it varies by school district. Some districts are providing virtual or online instruction. Others are sending homework packets. For students who attend SSD's special education and technical high schools, the option used depends on the work that the student has been doing this year in school. **For information about what your child's school district is doing, please refer to the letter from the SSD director that accompanies this FAQ.**

Q: How will my child receive their special education and related services while school is closed?

A: If your child's school is making work available to its students, SSD will provide services to your child to the extent possible. SSD's plan is that this will be done remotely. Your child's teacher should be contacting you periodically during the closure to provide information about how you can support your child in doing the work, and to support your child in completing the work using learning strategies or approaches they already use in school. You may also contact your child's teacher through the means you have available (email, phone, Class Dojo, or other communication tools).

Q: What about speech/language therapy or other related services?

A: Social workers, speech/language pathologists, occupational therapists and physical therapists have assembled activities that you can do at home to help your child maintain their skills. You can access these activities through your child's teacher.

Q: What if my child does not receive any special education services at all during the school closure?

A: SSD must provide services to the extent possible. However, with the requirements from the St. Louis County Department of Health, this must be done remotely. If your child's district made instruction available to students, but your child did not receive any special education services, your child's IEP team should convene as soon as possible when schools re-open to determine whether your child should receive any compensatory services, what they will be, and how they will be provided.

Q: What if my child is being evaluated or re-evaluated? What if my child's IEP comes due while schools are closed?

A: Because schools are closed and everyone should be practicing "social distancing," it is impossible to convene an evaluation conference or IEP meeting. These activities will be completed by your child's teacher or other school staff as soon as possible after schools re-open.

Q: Who should I call if I have any questions or need help supporting my child to do his work?

A: As always, your first point of contact should be your child's teacher/case manager.