



FEDERATION FOR CHILDREN  
WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

## Questions to Ask About School Reopening

As schools are making plans for reopening, families are struggling with difficult decisions about whether to send children back to school. To assist in this decision-making process, we have a list of questions you may want to ask your school and your child's pediatrician.

### Questions you can ask the school:

- What options do children have for school in the fall?
- How will the district be evaluating all students? How will this process differ for students on IEPs and 504 plans?
- How will staff be trained in health and safety, trauma, cultural awareness, and the changing academic environment?
- What is the plan in case school buildings need to close again and how will learning continue? How will school closure be communicated to families so they can be prepared?
- How will the school district communicate with families so that they have up-to-date information related to student schedule, instruction, progress monitoring, or any information related to COVID-19? How can families connect with schools?
- How will the school district help students, especially students who are new to the school, feel welcome, safe, comfortable, and address their fears?

### Some questions you may want to ask your school about in-person learning:

- What plans have been made for social distancing, mask-wearing, and disinfecting of school spaces?
- How will the school ensure the safe distribution of breakfast and lunch?
- How will the school ensure the safe transportation of students to and from school?
- How will students and staff be checked for symptoms of COVID-19?
- What happens if someone in the school shows symptoms or tests positive for COVID-19?
- What will a typical school day look like for my child?
- Will a child be disciplined if they take off their mask or break social distancing guidelines?
- What happens if my child is not able to wear a mask?
- Can parents and caregivers change their minds about whether a child attends in person or remote?
- Depending on what the district chooses to do, what kind of adjustment will the student go through when considering switching between in-person and remote learning midyear?
- Will there be different faculty and teachers for in-person and remote learning?
- Does in-person mean all day in school, all 5 days of week?

### Some questions you may want to ask your school about remote learning:

- What will a typical school day look like for my child in remote learning?
- How will remote learning look different than remote learning this spring?
- Who do I contact if I need a device, internet, or support to enable remote learning?
- Can I opt for a hybrid since the student will be in school in both cases (in-person and remote learning)

**Call our Information Center for answers to your questions at 800-331-0688 or  
[info@fcsn.org](mailto:info@fcsn.org)**



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## **Some questions you may ask about your child's special education services:**

- Will my child receive the same services and accommodations that are on the IEP or 504 plan?
- Will the timing and frequency of these services change?
- How will related services (OT, PT, Speech, etc) be provided?
- Who should I contact if I have questions about my child's special education services?

## **Some questions you may want to ask your pediatrician:**

- Is it safe to send my child to school?
- What is important for the school to understand about my child to provide the appropriate safety measures?
- What risk does s/he face if they return to in-person schooling?
- What risk does s/he face by not returning to school in person?
- What should the school do to keep my child safe in school? Some activities to discuss with the pediatrician include:
  - participating in general classroom activities,
  - taking the school bus,
  - participating in activities outside of the classroom such as recess or extra-curricular activities,
  - eating snacks and lunch,
  - moving through common spaces such as hallways,
  - participating in 1:1 services such as nursing, ABA, SLT, OT, PT, and Counseling.
- What PPE should school personnel who have close contact with my child wear?
- What additional guidance can you give me about the return to school decision for my child?

## **Some personal concerns you might want to talk to friends and family about:**

- My child's risk of getting sick from COVID-19
- Another family member's risk of getting sick from COVID-19
- My child's mood and behavior
- My child's access to in-person social situations
- My child's access to food from school
- My child's access to additional services and supports
- Extra costs or resources needed
- My anxiety level
- Two-way communication with school
- The schools' ability to provide high-quality online experiences
- The school's ability to keep my child safe in person

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