

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Diverse Learner Supports and Services during CPS Reopening

Updated February 24, 2021

As we continue to support our diverse learners attending school in person and from home, the Chicago Public Schools (CPS) Office of Diverse Learner Supports and Services (ODLSS) is following the special education guidance issued by the [Illinois State Board of Education](#) (ISBE) and the [United States Department of Education](#). For the most up-to-date information regarding the district's response to COVID-19, visit cps.edu/reopening.

This document is organized by the following topics:

[Interpreter Training](#)

[Extended School Year \(ESY\)](#)

[Services and Evaluation](#)

[IEP/504 Meetings](#)

[Health Questions](#)

[Interpreter Training](#)

What training will the district or ISBE offer to current interpreters at IEP meetings? Are there any services that have qualified interpreters to recommend to schools?

A Interpreter Certification training program is in the final stages of development and will be available for CPS staff members willing to interpret IEP meetings in April 2021. This certification program will include information specific to terminology and roles and responsibilities of interpreters in our district.

[Extended School Year \(ESY\)](#)

Will students have access to ESY and will the schedule be the same as previous years?

Yes, students will have access to ESY. We are in the process of developing a schedule for ESY, schools and parents will be notified in the late spring of any updates to the ESY schedule.

[Services and Evaluations](#)

My preschooler needs a screening or initial assessment. Are screenings being held in person? Where?

Yes, some screenings are being held in person at both our CPS Garfield Park and Coleman office locations.

The ODLSS Child Find Screening Team provides free early childhood developmental screenings for children from birth to age five. Developmental screenings can indicate if a child is having difficulties with cognitive or academic, communication, social-emotional, and fine or gross motor skills. If you have questions or are interested in scheduling a remote or in person developmental screening for your child, please contact the CPS Child Find Coordinator at 773-251-4855 or dmfuller-clark@cps.edu.

Our citywide assessment team conducts high-quality assessments for any child living within the boundaries of the city of Chicago. To ensure success in an academic setting, we use formal and informal assessments to ensure a thorough and holistic look at each student's strengths and needs. Evaluators may include a school psychologist, speech-language pathologists, occupational therapist, physical therapist, school social worker, nurse, teacher, and

case manager. If you have questions or would like to schedule an assessment for your child, please contact: earlychildhoodevals@cps.edu.

How can my child receive a new school assignment?

Please reach out to the case manager at your child's school to discuss a new school assignment. The case manager can submit a new school assignment request to the ODLSS School Assignment team for review.

Can students with IEPs mix pods when receiving push-in and pull-out services?

Classroom assignments and service delivery schedules for students with IEPs will need to be carefully developed so that students do not cross pods while still receiving instruction in their least restrictive environment. Instructional minutes can be provided in the classroom with either a small group or on an individual basis to prevent students from having to exit their pods. Teacher schedules may need to be updated to meet this need.

IEP/504 Meetings

Will IEP/504 meetings be held in person or remotely?

At the request of the parent, in-person IEP meetings/conferences can be scheduled, but IEP teams will support these meetings remotely when possible. When meeting in person, all staff will follow safety protocols and ensure that there is effective communication during the eligibility determination and annual review conferences.

Health Questions

How do I access the health screener? Is there a certain time of the day I should complete the health screener for my child?

There are two ways for parents to access the health screener. Families can either access the health screener online at cps.edu/healthscreener or [opt in](#) to receive the health screener via text to the primary contact number in Aspen whenever their child is scheduled to learn in person.

The health screener should be completed every morning prior to the child's arrival at school or boarding the school bus.

Will students and staff be tested for COVID-19 regularly?

On a weekly basis, 50% of all staff and 100% of staff within one of the 10 zip codes with the highest average number of COVID cases will be offered testing. All staff should expect to be tested at least once per month. The plan to make testing available to some students is being developed.

If you would like to provide feedback to or receive updates from ODLSS, please complete this [form](#).