



2200 M Avenue | Anacortes, WA 98221 | Phone 360-503-1200 | Fax 360-503-1201 | www.asd103.org

September 11, 2020

Dear Families of Students Receiving Special Education Services,

Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year! We are excited to be embarking on a new year and look forward to the opportunity to continue supporting your student. As a new department, Teaching, Learning and Inclusive Services, encompasses all student services, special education, and curriculum. This new name and department restructuring deepens a collaborative and inclusive culture to create equitable outcomes for students, families, and staff.

As there have been staffing changes this year, we would like to help you identify staff in each building. Please note that students who are taking part in our ASD@Home program will receive services from building providers.

Whitney Early Learning Center\*:

- Developmental Preschool - Lora Billow
- Birth to Three - Tere Shafer-McCarroll
- Speech – Megan Nash

School Psychologists:

- Dr. Kathryn Westbeld (Anacortes MS, Anacortes HS, & Cap Sante HS)
- Julia Adams-Jordanger (Fidalgo & Mount Erie)
- Sjofn Weisner (Island View & Whitney)

	Lifeskills	Resource	OT/PT	Speech
High School	April Lyons Dixon	Terri Kaltenbach Kim Liebscher Kyle Wendling	Chris Wrzesien Libby Ang*	Nicole Carubia Miranda Blake
Middle School	Jeannette McChesney	Beth Pruiett Joel Schelling		Miranda Blake
Fidalgo		Victoria Obermeier		Jessica Sturgeon
Island View	Amy Kammenga Katy Doebler	Meghan Moor		Nichole Carubia
Mount Erie		Miriam Mehl		Miranda Blake

We are also seeking additional feedback to continue planning for a successful school year. Links to surveys by program are provided below and we look forward to reviewing your responses..

- My student is served in a [self-contained classroom](#) (most instruction is provided by special education teachers)
- My student is served in the [Resource Room or receives only OT/PT/SLP](#) services
- My student is served in the [Developmental Pre-K program](#)

Attached you will find information about what special education services will look like this year based on current guidance from the Skagit County Department of Health and the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction.

We will continue to update you as we get new information and guidance. If you have questions please contact Shannon Gilbert: 360-503-1216 or [sgilbert@asd103.org](mailto:sgilbert@asd103.org)





Thank you so much for your partnership as we navigate this unprecedented time.

Shannon Gilbert  
Director of Inclusive Services

Dr. Becky Clifford  
Assistant Superintendent of Teaching,  
Learning, and Inclusive Services

## When will my Hybrid student return to school in-person?

The district is starting at step three in a six step phased-in approach to return to a full week of learning as illustrated in this graphic ([a larger image can be viewed on our district webpage](#)). Steps are subject to local and state health authority guidance.

Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4	Step 5	Step 6
 <p><b>100% DISTANCE LEARNING</b></p>	 <p><b>100% DISTANCE LEARNING</b></p>	 <p><b>HYBRID LEARNING</b></p>	 <p><b>HYBRID LEARNING</b></p>	 <p><b>HYBRID LEARNING</b></p>	 <p><b>100% IN-PERSON LEARNING</b></p>
<p>All students and staff participate in distance learning. School buildings closed for access.</p>	<p>All students participate in distance learning. Staff able to be onsite for the purpose of planning and delivering online instruction.</p>	<p>Students in greatest need of additional support as identified through an agreed upon set of criteria participate onsite with in-person instruction up to two (2) days a week. All other students participate in distance learning. Staff able to be onsite for the purpose of planning and delivering instruction.</p>	<p>All students from Stage 3, as well as our youngest learners, additional students in need of support (e.g., students considered "Prepared with Support" in 2019-20, 6th and 9th graders, etc.) participate onsite with in-person instruction up to two (2) days a week. All other students participate in distance learning. Staff able to be onsite for the purpose of planning and delivering instruction.</p>	<p>All students participate onsite with in-person instruction up to two (2) days a week. Staff able to be onsite for the purpose of planning and delivering instruction.</p>	<p>All students and staff participate onsite with in-person instruction five (5) days a week.</p>

In step 3 a very small number of Hybrid students will be returning for in-person learning for up to two days a week.

- At this time, only students who receive 75% or more of their instruction in a special education setting will return for limited in-person learning on September 14, 2020.
- All other students will continue to receive their special education services in a remote environment.

## Hybrid / ASD@Home IEPs

### How will my student's IEP be served?

Services will be provided based on your student's current IEP with conversion of services to a hybrid environment.

- In-person (subject to phased approach) : While at school, students will primarily be engaged in instructional components of their IEPs such as Math and Reading with support in other areas including adaptive and social emotional skills.
- Remote: As with all students, learning will be accessed through video conferencing, online work and hands-on materials in a virtual small group and/or one on one depending on current IEP services.
- ASD@Home: Students who take part in our ASD@Home program will receive services similar to those provided to students in our Hybrid model and according to a Hybrid schedule. Students in grades 6-8 who would normally be served in a special education class will have scheduled, synchronous classes included in their schedule.
  - Special education will be provided to students at ASD@Home through resource room and/or related services (OT/PT, SLP).
  - Because ASD@home is unable to provide a full continuum of services, students served through Autism or Life Skills classes will access those services through the Hybrid learning option.

### How will decisions for service delivery in a Hybrid / ASD@home environment be documented?

These IEP decisions will be documented in a Prior Written Notice.

**What is the process for decision-making of service delivery?**

Due to health and safety guidance the district has developed a phased-in approach to in-person learning. Service delivery decisions in context to a Hybrid environment will be completed in the following ways. Case managers will:

- call families to discuss / propose services and document the decisions via a Prior Written Notice (PWN) - similar to holding an IEP amendment without a meeting
- initiate or respond to a family request to hold a virtual IEP meeting to discuss / propose services and document the decisions via a Prior Written Notice (PWN)

Additionally, the staff has gathered and will continue to gather family input via small group zoom meetings, case manager emails to the class, individual communication and district survey (linked in this communication).

**When will my student's case manager contact me?**

The case manager will contact you in the first couple of weeks of school.

**I do not know who my child's case manager is, how do I find out who to contact?**

If your child is taking part in ASD@Home they will have the same case manager as they did last year. If you are new to the district please contact the Inclusive Services Department at (360) 503-1218 to help connect you with a case manager.

**What if my student has a one to one para educator?**

District staff will not be supporting students in their homes. If your student has a 1:1 in their IEP support will be provided to your student based on their individual IEP needs. When your student returns for in person instruction your child's 1:1 will resume with 1:1 support as written in the IEP.

**Is the district still providing students access to contract schools (i.e. Discovery and Salish Sea)?**

If your student's IEP team has determined that the appropriate placement for your child is at a contract school your child will continue to receive those services. Contract schools are working directly with families to share learning plans for this fall and coordinate with transportation.

**Will specialized behavior services still be available?**

If specialized services are specified and agreed upon by the IEP team then those services will continue to be available.

**Will my student have access to the same special education staff?**

A majority of staff are continuing in their current positions, however, student access to the same staff will depend on what supports are needed in the student's IEP. For those students who will be returning to in-person it depends on staff ability to be on-site.

**Will we still hold annual IEP meetings and reevaluations/initial evaluations?**

- IEP Meetings - Case managers will be reaching out with parents to renew IEPs as their renewal dates come up. If you have questions or concerns about your child's services please contact your child's case manager.
- Re-evaluations - Evaluations will resume using enhanced health and safety protocols once school resumes on September 14. Your student's team will be contacting you to schedule testing for your student.

- Initial evaluations - Initial evaluations that were suspended in the spring due to school closures will continue when school resumes on September 14. School psychologists will be contacting families to schedule onsite testing.

**Who will be teaching the students to use Google Meet and the chat app for asking questions and when will this happen?** Staff will support students in the learning platforms they will be using once school begins.

**What instructional materials will be available?**

As always, students will have access to core instructional materials as appropriate and relevant to make progress towards their IEP goals. Some of the instructional materials include the following:

Self-contained classes (Autism and Life Skills)

- At the elementary: StyerFitzgerald and STAR in addition to a number of other resources
- At the secondary: News2You, Unique, Positivity, and Inspire

Resources - core curriculum is utilized in all settings and tailored for specially designed instruction

- Elementary: Wilson Reading, Social Thinking, RULER
- Secondary: Read Naturally, Illustrative Math, Social Thinking, RULER/Character Strong

**Will I receive information about recovery services?**

According to OSPI, "Recovery services are intended to enable the student to make progress on IEP goals, if students have not been provided or were unable to access IEP services during COVID-19." We will assess and collect data to identify students who may need these services. District will be sharing the offer of recovery services to parents of identified students by Winter Break.

**Related to in-person service**

**Will my secondary student be able to access scheduled classes while at school?**

If students are at school while they are scheduled to take part in another class they will be able to access their scheduled class via Zoom/Google Meet. If the student needs assistance with the course staff will be available to help the student with that access based on their individual needs.

**What happens if there is a confirmed case of COVID at school?** If there is a confirmed case of COVID-19 within our schools, our nursing staff will work with the department of health for guidance.

**Health and Safety:**

**Is it safe for students to be together in school settings?**

- The district is following health and safety guidelines as outlined by Governor Inslee and the Skagit County Department of Health.
- Parents /guardians are asked to complete a health screening ticket each day before a student boards a bus or enters a school building. If riding a bus, the student must provide this ticket to the driver. If the answer to any of these questions is 'yes' the student will not be allowed to board the bus or enter the building. If any symptoms occur while at school parents will be contacted to pick up their student.
- Please review the following questions daily. On the first day of school, we are requesting a parent/guardian to be at the bus stop with their child to answer these screening

questions. Paper health tickets will be sent home on the first day of school to use for each day after.

1. Do you have any of the following symptoms that are not caused by another condition?
  - Fever (100.4 F) or chills
  - Cough
  - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
  - Unusual fatigue
  - Muscle or body aches
  - Headache
  - Recent loss of taste or smell
  - Sore throat
  - Congestion or runny nose
  - Nausea or vomiting
  - Diarrhea
2. Have you been in close contact with anyone with confirmed COVID-19?
3. Have you had a positive COVID-19 test for active virus in the past 10 days?
4. Within the past 14 days, has a public health or medical professional told you to self-monitor, self-isolate or self-quarantine because of concerns about COVID-19 infection?

**My student forgot/lost his mask on his way to school. Will he still be allowed to attend?**

We will be following the Department of Health guidance for the wearing of masks while at school. If your child has lost/forgotten their mask we will have masks on hand for your student to use.

**I have read this information, reviewed the Q&A and have additional questions. Who can I contact?** Please contact your child's case manager or Shannon Gilbert, Director of Inclusive Services, (360) 503-1216, [sgilbert@asd103.org](mailto:sgilbert@asd103.org).