



Updated 7/8/20

Parent Option for Special Education Virtual Learning During Global Pandemic

FCS is offering both a Brick and Mortar Option and Virtual Option for ALL students PreK-12th grade who have an IEP. Families may choose from the following two options:

- PreK-12 Brick and Mortar Option with IEP in place
- PreK -12 Virtual Option for all students with development of a Contingency Plan for Virtual Implementation of the IEP

Both options will include access to general education curriculum and modified curriculum based on student need.

Special Education In The Traditional School Environment

We know that students with disabilities learn best when they are provided instruction face-to-face with teachers and related service providers. FCS has drafted guidelines for health safety in response to COVID-19. Special education staff will follow all district guidelines to ensure that equipment and shared materials are routinely disinfected. FCS has health and safety guidelines in place for physical interactions with students, to include toileting needs, positioning and feeding. Should your child have individual medical needs, please share those with your child's case manager along with any medical documentation. **We encourage families with children with disabilities to allow their child to attend school, so we may fully implement the students' IEP as written to provide all needed services.**

Special Education Virtual Option Details

While your child's IEP was developed to be implemented in the brick and mortar setting, FCS has developed a virtual option for services to ensure that all students feel safe in the learning environment they choose for this school year.

- PreK - 5th Special Education staff will develop, deliver and/or collaborate with General Education Virtual Staff to ensure general and modified curriculum is delivered based on student needs through a Contingency Plan for Virtual Implementation of the IEP
- 6th - 12th Special Education staff will collaborate with Forsyth Virtual Academy (FVA) to ensure general and modified curriculum is delivered based on student needs through a Contingency Plan for Virtual Implementation of the IEP
- This option is a parent/guardian choice for the 2020-2021 school year due to the unique circumstances of the global pandemic.
- The Contingency Plan for Virtual Implementation of the IEP is only relevant during the specific displacement such as COVID-19
- Contingent provisions may include alternate modes such as online or virtual instruction, instructional telephone calls, and other curriculum-based instructional activities.
- Contingent provisions may identify how special education and related services can be provided virtually.
- When your child returns to a brick and mortar setting, the previous IEP will resume.
- For the virtual option, all students with an IEP will be assigned a case manager, who is a certified special educator. The case manager may be a different provider than the assigned case manager in the brick and mortar setting.
 - The case manager will be responsible for ensuring that specially designed instruction is provided.
 - The case manager will collaborate with other virtual providers and the family to determine appropriate services and supports for each student participating in the virtual learning environment.
 - The case manager will provide ongoing support to the family and other virtual providers to ensure the services and supports are implemented.
 - Service providers will collect data based on the student's goals and objectives in the contingency plan.

- All special education virtual classes are conducted using a combination of the following:
 - direct, real-time instruction
 - individual
 - group
 - student-directed assignments and activities.
- Accommodations and supports necessary to access instruction in the virtual environment will be outlined in each student's Contingency Plan for Virtual Implementation
- Services for students who are eligible to receive Speech Therapy, Occupational Therapy, and/or Physical Therapy will be available via a Teletherapy platform.

Parent as the Learning Coach

A critical component for a student to be successful in a virtual educational setting is that each student has proper adult supervision throughout the school day. A teacher is not physically able to provide supervision in a virtual educational environment, therefore there must be a dedicated adult performing that supervisory role when a student is enrolled in the virtual environment. The adult is highly encouraged to:

- Monitor the student's academic performance daily
- Ensure the student attends all live sessions and follows the set learning schedule
- Hold the student accountable for completing required assignments and assessments
- Provide the level of assistance your student requires to actively participate in services (ie. redirection, visual, verbal, gestural and physical prompting, etc.)
- Regularly communicate with student's teacher(s) regarding any questions or concerns
- Ensure home access to technology systems required to access live instruction and assignments

PREK-12TH SPECIAL EDUCATION VIRTUAL COMMITMENT SURVEY

It is imperative families complete the Special Education Virtual Learning Participation form by **Tuesday, July 14th** to indicate their decision for their child to participate in this format for a minimum of nine weeks, unless the IEP team (including the parents/guardians) meet and determine different services are needed.

If you are choosing the Brick and Mortar option, you do not need to complete this form.

- RESTART FORSYTH: [FORSYTH.K12.GA.US/RESTARTFORSYTH](https://www.forsyth.k12.ga.us/restartforsyth)

Special Education Staff will contact the parents/guardians during pre-planning to develop the Contingency Plan for Virtual Implementation of the IEP.