



Special Education Considerations

As school closures are extended, school and district teams must revisit their AMI plans and ensure the needs of students with disabilities are met. These AMI Plans should include specific actions to ensure the provision of FAPE to students with disabilities, and address the following:

- how AMI days will be addressed in the IEP
- how the district will involve the special education teacher in the provision of special education services during AMI days to meet the individual needs of each child
- how accommodations will be provided on AMI days (e.g. oral directions)
- how related services will be addressed

Many disability-related modifications and services may be effectively provided online. These may include, for instance, extensions of time for assignments, videos with accurate captioning or embedded sign language interpreting, accessible reading materials, and many speech or language services through video conferencing. The determination of how FAPE is to be provided may need to be different in this time of unprecedented national emergency.

DESE has developed a list of supports and related resources, [Supports and Accommodations for Students with Disabilities](#), to consider by grade band, but this is not an exhaustive list. Teachers may want to highlight the items a parent could use to support their child's learning, while ensuring the selected supports and accommodations align with each student's identified IEP needs.

As questions come up and/or the need for support to implement services in a nontraditional way, please contact the special education office at 501-682-4221 or Matt.Sewell@arkanas.gov. We recognize that exceptional circumstances may affect how special education and related services and supports are provided to students with disabilities, and will offer flexibility. DESE is dedicating staff and consultant teams to identify supports for schools and families until schools are able to reopen safely.