



Three Steps to Return to School 2020-2021 School Year

Returning to school during the COVID-19 pandemic presents unique challenges. Here are a few steps to consider for parents of students with individual education program (IEP).

Step One: Read your school district's re-entry plan*

This can be found on your district's website, but you can also reach out to the school and request a copy.

Each district has options for where and how their students can receive an education. You will likely be asked to decide between one of the three possible options for attending school:

- **Onsite Instruction:** Students attend classes in the school building.
- **Fixed Blended Instruction (hybrid):** Students receive instruction a minimum of two (2) full days of onsite instruction per week with distance learning the remaining days of the week.
- **Virtual Instruction:** Students receive all instruction online.
- **Distanced Instruction:** Students are offsite and receive instruction through online means or through the use of physical materials.

Possible temporary alternative methods of instruction (AMI) during a suspected exposure to COVID-19 or quarantine of a group of students include:

- **Intermittent Blended Instruction:** The planned pattern of onsite or fixed blended instruction is interrupted by local conditions that prevent any onsite instruction.
- **Instruction during Quarantine:** A group of students, such as a classroom or bus roster, receive distanced instruction for an identified period of time to protect public health.

Step Two: Register for the option that suits your family's needs and priorities

You may have a choice between Onsite, Fixed Blended or Virtual Instruction. The sooner you communicate your preference to the district the more likely there will be room in that placement for your child.

Step Three: Contact the IEP Team

Reach out to your child's IEP case manager and request a meeting with the team (email is an effective way to reach them and to track your communication). This will ensure you have an opportunity to share your concerns with the team and to advocate for the most appropriate learning environment.

Your new IEP should include a [Form G](#) document which details how your child's educational needs will be met while COVID-19 restrictions are in place, including a plan, in case there is an extended closure or quarantine.

* DESE Attendance Guidance for 2020-21 School Year <https://dese.mo.gov/sites/default/files/COVID-AttendanceGuidanceDocument.pdf>