

Special Education FAQs for MWUSD Parents - 3-12-21

1. During hybrid in-person instruction, will students with an IEP be pulled out of their classroom to receive special education services during the day?

In general, the answer is no. County health officials have advised schools to restrict the number of stable groups a child participates in to a minimum, in order to minimize COVID risks. Instructionally, we also want our students to maximize their instructional time in their general education classes during hybrid “in person” days. To this end, the special education services that were typically offered outside of the classroom will now be offered through distance learning for most students with IEPs (see Question 3). There may be exceptional circumstances in which a special education provider will schedule a student to receive their service at the end of their hybrid “in person” day, but this may be rare.

2. Why are Special Day Class (SDC) students allowed to attend hybrid “in person” schooling for 4 days per week?

For purposes of in-person instruction, the K-12 Guidance specifies that students need to be seated 6 feet apart from one another in the classroom. Upon measuring our classrooms, this translates into having no more than 12-14 students in a general education classroom. At this time, the SDC enrollment at each school meets the criteria. Therefore, the students in SDC will be able to attend classes 4 days per week.

3. During hybrid, when will my student with an IEP receive RSP services?

The services provided through the RSP teacher, the speech pathologist, the occupational therapist, and ERMHS counselor will be provided virtually during the “at home” hybrid days. If your child receives any of these services, the providers will work with your child’s teacher to fit their special education service into the student’s “at home” hybrid schedule.

In exceptional circumstances, the provider may offer in person appointments for special education service delivery during the student’s hybrid “at home” days during which the student may be brought to the school to receive their service.

4. Will *Mr. Mingo Mondays* continue?

As we move into the Hybrid Model on March 29, *Mr. Mingo Monday's* (Adapted physical education) will continue to be a service provided online due to the students participating being from different grade levels and cohorts. *Mr. Mingo Monday's* will continue to meet each Monday from 1-1:30pm.

5. Can parents join online group instruction or is this a violation of student privacy?

Parents can observe a “class” just as they would normally so long as they do not violate confidentiality rules. Parents are cautioned not to share screen shots/video of sessions via social media, or by any other means, to protect other students’ privacy. The district has a technology use agreement with parents/students that will apply. Also, please note that there are additional confidentiality protections for counseling services delivered to students 12 or older and parents typically cannot observe those sessions.

6. Who should I contact if I have more questions?

If you have more questions about your child’s special education services in relation to returning to school via hybrid, please feel free to reach out to your child’s special education case manager at the school.