

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)
CSD Special Education Services COVID-19 Impacts

In this unprecedented and uncertain situation, we understand you likely have questions about special education services provided by the Cashmere School District. We have compiled a list of common questions we are receiving and have answered them below. If you have additional questions not answered in this document, you may contact Lisa Avila, Special Education Director at 509-782-2710, or the district office at 509-782-3355.

1. Q: During the extended closure, will my student still receive their Individualized Education Program (IEP) services?

A: If a school closure causes educational services for all students to pause within the district, then the district is generally not required to provide services to the affected students eligible for special education services during that same period of time. That being said, the Cashmere School District is committed to doing the best we can to meet the needs of all students. As we navigate the best way to provide access for learning activities for your child, we know that the opportunities and services we are able to offer will look different than the way they are written on the IEP. Our case managers will be checking in weekly with your child to ensure we are doing everything they can to support your child's learning.

2. Q: Will the district provide extended learning opportunities for my child?

A: Cashmere School District (CSD) is committed to providing meaningful educational learning opportunities for all students, as well as providing access to educational services so our seniors are able to accrue credits towards their graduation. We will continue to provide appropriate educational opportunities for students that qualify for special education during this time.

We are exploring a broad range of ways we can deliver educational opportunities that are individualized to the needs of students and their families, and case managers are working diligently to contact families to find out what kinds of ways we can deliver opportunities in accessible and meaningful ways during this difficult time.

3. Q: Does the extended school closure prohibit meetings such as evaluation/eligibility meetings, IEP meetings, student assessments, or child find screenings?

A. No. OSPI has issued guidance that districts consider ways to use distance technology (e.g., Zoom, conference calls) to the extent possible to provide child find, hold initial and annual IEP meetings, and/or evaluation/eligibility meetings, if staff and parents are available. Beginning March 26 through April 9th, the CSD is not allowing staff or patron access into buildings except to essential staff.

4. Q: Can I request my IEP meeting be held telephonically (on the telephone)?

A: Yes. The district places the safety of our students, their families, and our staff, as the highest priority. To that end, the district encourages parents to schedule IEP meetings via telephone or video conference. The district is confident that both options still provide parents with a meaningful

opportunity to participate in the IEP meeting. If you would like to attend an IEP meeting via telephone or video conference, please contact your IEP Team leader to discuss whether staff is available to do so.

5. Q: What if my student's annual IEP review deadline is during the extended school closure?

A: The district will, to the extent possible, comply with all deadlines. Please note that initial referrals (including parent referrals) are paused when there is a school closure in place since we are not able to safely allow students into school for testing. If a re-evaluation or IEP meeting is unable to occur by zoom or telephonically, the district will document this in a Prior Written Notice form, and schedule the meeting 30 days after school resumes.

6. Q: Where can I turn for more information regarding the Cashmere School District's response to COVID-19?

A: We are committed to keeping you updated with information as soon as it becomes available. Please continue to check the Cashmere School District Website for announcements related to COVID-19 and the actions we are taking.