



# LEARNING AND INSTRUCTION

## RETURN TO LEARNING

# FOCUS ON SPECIAL EDUCATION

### Support

We recognize that some of our students with special needs require the support of Educational Assistants to successfully navigate the school environment. Students who require a high level of support for their attendant care or safety needs related to a disability, will be able to attend school full time. It is important that these students attend school each day so that routines can be established. For students that meet this criteria, the school based teams will be reaching out to families prior to September 8 to discuss a transition plan.

- Continued in-person and/or online support from Educational Assistants and Special Education Resource Teachers and access to SEA equipment/assistive technology as per the IEP
- Individual Education Plans (IEP) will continue to be implemented. This is a working document developed by the school based team in collaboration with parents and community partners.
- In School Team Meetings and continued support from Itinerant Staff (e.g. Autism Services, Speech and Language, Vision and Hearing Resource Teachers)

### Remote Learning

- Students who are taking part in remote learning will continue to receive additional remedial support from the appropriate special education staff (e.g. teacher, SERT, EA) as per the IEP
- Speech and Language services, and support for identified at-risk readers and students with modified programs will continue remotely

### Health and Safety

- We understand that students with high needs may not be able to follow social distancing parameters or may not be able to wear masks.
- Ongoing support and training will be provided in Behaviour Management Systems (BMS) and personal protective equipment (PPE) will be provided.
- Safety Plans will be reviewed as required.
- SMCDSB is meeting with the Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) to review the needs of medically complex students.

### Resources

- SMCDSB Applied Behaviour Analysts (ABA) and Psychologist are preparing webinars which will be available to families to help support a successful transition back to school
- These are short 15-minute videos targeted for families of students with high needs and will be available on the SMCDSB website and YouTube channel
- School teams understand that students with high needs will need access to resource rooms for attendant care, remediation and sensory activities. In order to maintain cohorting numbers, alternative spaces are being considered where possible.

### Transportation and Access

- Students who normally require special transportation will still have access to this service.
- Students and parent/guardians who are assisting with boarding and exiting the bus must follow mask requirements.
- Students arriving via special transportation will be met by designated staff.
- Schools will connect with families prior to the first day of school to review entry and exit procedures.
- Schools and families may discuss staggered entry and exit times for students with high needs to minimize contact in common areas (e.g. foyers, hallways). If you choose not to access special transportation, please notify your child's school.



SIMCOE MUSKOKA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

