Early Childhood Special Education

Little things that we want you to know:

How we’re bouncing back from the impact of COVID-19

- 220+ Evaluations were paused when schools had to suddenly shut down. Evaluation teams have been working hard and have caught up. Each team scheduled double testing sessions and worked tirelessly to get information completed within timelines. Training was held on completing virtual evaluations including more reliance on family interviews to provide a lot of the background information to guide starting points in obtaining and maintaining student engagement.

- Working with Partner District Early Childhood Programs we have resumed services in all 14 districts that we serve. Things may look differently than in the past but learning is occurring!

Return to learn dates

- Most districts have transitioned back to in-person instruction or they are in the final planning stages.
- As special education staff we are working with our general education partners to modify the plans that have been developed for reentry.
- While we are working on re-entry plans a primary focus is on how to support our families in addressing concerns about in-person and virtual learning.
- Staff also have brought up many good questions regarding re-entry. The answers have helped to develop strategies and tips that will help hopefully ease the process for everyone.

What to do if you still have questions

All staff, including your district SSD administrators will continue to respond to questions that we receive. The Area Coordinator’s contact information is to the left and includes district assignments. Continue to reach out to your child’s casemanger and building administrator as resources.

Return dates established or to-be-determined:
Affton * MRH * Parkway * Riverview

Currently in-person (may include virtual option):
Bayless * Brentwood * Hancock * Ladue * Lindbergh * Jennings * Normandy * Ritenour * Webster * Valley Park
Strategy of the month:
Helping children understand wearing face masks

As we are returning to school and some children are being asked to wear a mask for far longer than they have while at home with their families. There are things that can be done to help them prepare. Remember to keep it simple and speak in terms that they understand.

- Familiarize them with the masks. Some teachers have had students read stories about wearing masks at school, practice putting it on a favorite stuffed animal and other strategies.
- Decorate a mask with your little one. If it is a plain mask they can use fabric markers to decorate it or look for one to make showing favorite characters. I’ve seen Minnie Mouse ©, Paw Patrol ©, various superheroes and more.


Celebrations and other news

- The ECSE Department has raised money to support the Special Education Foundation and send a Kid-to-Camp. Way to go team!

- We have a number of staff who won grants that they are using to fund amazing ideas in their classrooms. Way to go Carrie Clemmons at South County Head Start, Tracy Kroenlein and Kara Rose at Lindbergh EC. This is the tip of the iceberg of our winners.

Mark your calendars

- This year may be different in some aspects but still be on the lookout for Parent-Teacher (Staff) Conferences and progress reports. Think of questions about what your child should be learning next and ways that you can support that learning at home. That is something we would love to help develop as a home-school connection.
- Check out Dr. Keenan’s blog corner on various topics https://www.ssdmo.org/updates
Links you might like

- Special School District [https://www.ssdmo.org/](https://www.ssdmo.org/)
- SSD’s Parent Education Diversity & Awareness (PEDA) Department [https://www.ssdmo.org/Page/488](https://www.ssdmo.org/Page/488)

Special School District ECSE Department provides services in 14 of the county school districts. Here are links to their websites for district specific information.