



**MILWAUKEE
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

May 7, 2021

Hello, MPS Families,

This letter is to provide guidance to families with students receiving special education services in person and for those who have chosen to continue learning in a virtual environment. During school building closure, Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) has continued to review, refine, and implement remote service opportunities for all students, including students with disabilities. As a result of this ongoing process, MPS, following guidance from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI), when services cannot be provided or were ineffective based on the needs of the student, MPS must consider whether, and to what extent, compensatory services or additional services are required due to the impact of the pandemic during the 2020–21 school year. These determinations will be made on an individual student basis.

Implementation of IEP Services, Related Services, Nonconventional Services, and Supports

All services offered by MPS to nondisabled students during in-person and virtual learning will also be available to students with disabilities. Services that are considered as additional will be documented in the IEP, including the frequency, amount, and duration. Options for additional services will include services during the school day, before/after the school day, during summer programming, and/or during school-specific tutoring sessions.

For families who choose to remain virtual, teachers and support staff will continue to offer activities that can be worked on at home to help students achieve their IEP goals and make connections to community resources. The teachers and specialized services staff members who work with your student may have specific resources that are appropriate to meet your student's needs as well as community resources that may benefit your family.

IEP Meetings

MPS continues to conduct annual IEP meetings as stated in the guidelines from DPI. During the IEP meeting, teams will consider whether, and to what extent, compensatory services or additional services are required now that school buildings have reopened. Families can request an IEP team meeting at any time to discuss additional services. The special education teacher will work with the IEP team members to set up meetings by phone or via a virtual platform that is agreeable to the parent/guardian. Face-to-face meetings are not permitted at this time.

If you are a parent/guardian who has specific questions regarding your child with disabilities, please communicate with your student's IEP teacher or special education supervisor, or call the Department of Specialized Services at 414-438-3648.

Thank you for being partners in education.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Mims-Howell
Acting Chief Academic Officer