

### **In-Person Special Education Services during Distance Learning**

Nova Classical Academy will prioritize providing in-person direct special education services for students whose special education program calls for intensive services that cannot be provided in a distance learning setting. The Minnesota Department of Human Services defines intensive services as those which are received by individuals with the most significant disabilities.

In schools, these students may include:

- Students who, due to their disability, cannot access their special education instruction remotely without significant adult support (e.g., needs hand over hand assistance, direct PCA services, and/or direct intervener services)
- Students needing intensive services requiring the use of specialized technology, equipment (e.g. stander, gait trainer, and other adaptive equipment), or augmentative/alternative communication, with direct adult support that is available in the school setting
- Students whose program contains functional goals and curriculum, activities of daily living, (e.g., toileting, eating, mobility), or highly modified materials requiring in-person instruction and progress monitoring
- Students requiring significant behavioral programming and implementation of a positive behavior support plan that cannot be provided in a distance learning environment

Parents of students whose programming needs may require prioritizing in-person direct special education services will be contacted by the student's case manager and offered a Team meeting to discuss the student's programming needs. The student's IEP (Individual Education Program) team should determine if in-person instruction and services at a school site are appropriate based on the student's individual needs to ensure the provision of FAPE (Free Appropriate Public Education) and based on the ability to ensure compliance with public health mandates and the individual student and family health situation. District staff are aware that they will need to be on-site to provide students with in-person instruction and services when this is determined safe to do so. When school administration determines that it is not safe, in accordance with public health guidelines, to provide in person instruction, students will receive instruction through distance learning.

### **In-Person Special Education Evaluations during Distance Learning**

Nova Classical Academy will prioritize conducting required in-person special education evaluation components while in a distance learning model. Parents of students who are in need of a special education evaluation/re-evaluation will be contacted by a member of the special education evaluation team to discuss the option of in-person administration of components that cannot be completed remotely. If a parent does not wish to have their student evaluated in-person while the district is in a distance learning model, the evaluation components which require in-person will be halted until hybrid learning is resumed. District staff are aware that they will need to be on-site to provide students with in-person special education evaluations when this is determined safe to do so. When school administration determines that it is not safe, in accordance with public health guidelines, to provide in person evaluation, students will participate in evaluation through distance learning. Assessments that cannot be

completed through the distance learning model will be put on hold and administered once it is safe to conduct the assessment in person.