



Tully Central School District Student Support Services Department

The Tully Central School District has spent the past several weeks planning for the possible return of students to our campus. After receiving significant guidance from the NY State Education Department and the NY State Department of Health, we have crafted plans to address student learning needs in various scenarios and models based on schools being allowed to provide in-person instruction, as well as remote instruction, and finally a hybrid between the two.

Students with disabilities are general education students first. Our students with IEPs are included (as they should be) in all general education considerations and plans. Special education provisions as listed on IEPs are a service, so we were unable to plan specifics for special education services until our plan for all students was established.

This letter will provide you with some specific information about our reopening, as it pertains to students with disabilities. I have been working collaboratively throughout this reopening process in order to ensure that students with disabilities' needs are being represented, and included in any and all decisions. I have been working directly with the Principals, the Administrative Team, multiple Reopening Committees, OCM BOCES, and my fellow Directors of Special Education in the region.

My hope is to help alleviate worries and answer some questions. I did make a decision to wait to send this out until I was fairly certain of what the general reopening plans for all students would be, so as not to confuse people by explaining something only to then have to change it multiple times. Please call or email with any and all questions.

(Please note, things are still subject to change as guidelines and mandates may continue to come to us from NYS.)

A Few Key Highlights...

- The NYSED & NYSDOH guidance recommends that Districts prioritize in-person instruction for specific student populations (such as students with disabilities, early learners, and English language learners)
 - In order to plan for student's services as listed on IEPs, we first needed to establish plans, schedules, and models for all students grades Pre K through 12th
- Schools (whether utilizing in-person, remote, or hybrid model) must address the provision of FAPE (Free Appropriate Public Education) consistent with the need to protect the health and safety of students with disabilities and those providing special education services
 - Our first priority must continue to be the health and safety of all students, staff, families
 - All students with disabilities will have their IEP implemented to the maximum extent possible while adhering to the mandates and guidelines
- Guidance provides flexibility with respect to IEP implementation for delivery of services during the COVID pandemic, whether delivered in-person and/or remotely
 - This means that the Tully CSD will provide services as listed on each students' IEP, but if a need arises to adjust any area of services (ex. frequency, duration, ratio, location, etc.), individual parents/guardians will be contacted for discussion and collaboration



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Below is a summary of the tentative plan for students with disabilities in relation to the models and schedules being suggested for all of our Tully CSD students...

Again, this is subject to change as our information and guidance changes.

Preschool through 6th grade students at TES:

Pursuant to the Governor allowing schools to reopen in September, students in grades PK - 6th will have the option of attending school in-person, 5 days per week, or engaging in remote learning, 5 days per week.

For parents of students with disabilities the same options are available

- Attend in-person instruction all 5 days a week

OR

- Attend all remote instruction all 5 days a week

If in-person instruction is chosen your child will be provided with the services and accommodations as listed on their individual education plan (IEP) within their school day here on campus to the maximum extent possible while adhering to NYS mandates.

If remote instruction is chosen your child will be provided with the services and accommodations as listed on their individual education plan (IEP) within their remote instructional day to the maximum extent possible. Related services such as Speech, OT, PT, etc. would also be provided remotely for these students. Parents and Director may discuss options for in-person related services (some or all) even if choosing remote instruction.

7th- 12 th grade students at Tully JSHS:

Pursuant to the Governor allowing schools to reopen in September, all students in grades 7-12 will have the option of engaging in a hybrid model or engaging in all remote learning, 5 days per week. In this hybrid model, students would be divided into two cohort groups (students w/IEPs or ELLs are shown as Cohort C) with each group receiving in-person instruction 2 days each week while the other group learns remotely on those 2 days. Groups then switch models. One specific day each week ALL Cohorts would learn remotely. * ALL students have the option of doing ALL remote learning*

EXAMPLE:	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Cohort A	in-person	remote	remote for all	in-person	remote
Cohort B	remote	in-person	remote for all	remote	in-person
Cohort C (students with IEPs/ELLs)	in-person	in-person	remote for all	in-person	in-person



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For parents of students with disabilities the following options are available

- Attend **hybrid** instruction as is being offered for all students (as described above)
OR
- Attend **in-person** instruction 4 days a week, with 1 day a week being remote
OR
- Attend all **remote** instruction all 5 days a week

If **hybrid** instruction is chosen your child will be provided with the services and accommodations as listed on their individual education plan (IEP) in both models. Some special education services will be provided within their 2 in-person school days and some will be provided in the remote model on the other days.

If **in-person** instruction is chosen your child will be provided with the services and accommodations as listed on their individual education plan (IEP) within their **4 in-person school days** here on campus with the possibility of a virtual special education service on the 1 day of remote learning. All IEP services will be provided, regardless of model to the maximum extent possible while adhering to NYS mandates. If SWDs attend the 4 days in-person they will join both cohort groups for in person instruction (ex. They will join cohort A on Mon and Thur, and join cohort B on Tues and Fri).

If **remote** instruction is chosen your child will be provided with the services and accommodations as listed on their individual education plan (IEP) within their remote instructional day to the maximum extent possible. Related services such as Speech, OT, PT, etc. would also be provided remotely for these students. Parents and Director may discuss options for in-person related services (some or all) even if choosing remote instruction.

[K - 12th grade Tully students at BOCES run Special Education Programs:](#)

Pursuant to the Governor allowing schools to reopen in September, students with IEPs who have a high level of individualized needs in grades K - 12th will have the option of attending school in-person, 5 days per week, or engaging in remote learning, 5 days per week.

- Attend **in-person** instruction all 5 days a week at BOCES program location
OR
- Attend all **remote** instruction all 5 days a week



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If in-person instruction is chosen your child will be provided with the services and accommodations as listed on their individual education plan (IEP) within their school day at the regular and planned BOCES location that was discussed at CSE and is listed on your child's IEP to the maximum extent possible while adhering to NYS mandates. Tully Schools will arrange transportation all 5 days as typical.

If remote instruction is chosen your child will be provided with the services and accommodations as listed on their individual education plan (IEP) within their remote instructional day to the maximum extent possible. Related services such as Speech, OT, PT, etc. would also be provided remotely for these students. Remote instruction will be provided through BOCES staff and providers from your child's specific program.

[CPSE \(Preschool 3-5\) Tully students: \(CPSE students who do not attend Tully Elem Preschool\)](#)

The Committee on Preschool Special Education will continue to work collaboratively with parents, programs, agencies, the County, and providers to deliver all services as listed on your child's IEP to the maximum extent possible while adhering to NYSED and NYSDOH guidelines. This will require communication between all parties involved. At this time programs and agencies are providing services through either in-person or remote models according to their abilities to adhere to mandates and guidelines. Because of this the CPSE will work with parents to understand their preferred mode of service and then work with programs, agencies and providers to make the best possible partnerships for special education services based on parent choice and agency ability.

Special Education can be complicated (especially now) and it has to start with remembering that children/students with disabilities are first and foremost children/students. If we work together, we can provide quality special education services for all of our students.

Please, call me, email me, reach out, any time with any questions. I will continue to work in the best interest of all children this school year. I will not have all the answers all the time, but I will seek answers that I may not have, and I will do my best to help in anyway in the best interest of children.

Sincerely,

Cristy Bobbett

*Director of Student Support Services
Tully Central School District*