Distance Learning Plan 2020

In response to the COVID-19 global health crisis, ACCEL developed this distance learning plan so our students continue to receive special education services while in the home setting. This plan represents the ACCEL commitment to make every effort to ensure learning, engagement, and services are provided for each student we serve.

Contents

Start Dates

ACCEL opens its doors on August 17th for in-person learning at all locations. Our BLC classes started virtually learning on August 5th. August 17th has been the original start date for our Metro and East locations so no changes to the 20-21 school calendar will be made.

Overview

During distance learning, our special education staff and related service providers provide special education services using a variety of different strategies, differentiated instruction, and online platforms based on an individual student's needs. Distance learning includes tools such as instructional videos, online access to educational programs, virtual live sessions, work packets, parent consultation, and additional instructional resources communicated through Microsoft Teams. Special education staff collaborate with families to determine what services and supports are needed during Distance Learning.

The ACCEL Distance Learning Plan is designed to facilitate student engagement and continuity of instruction. The Distance Learning Plan ensures that:

1. All students have opportunities for continued learning and build skill acquisition;

2. Instruction is individualized based on the student's IEP goals, modifications, and accommodations; and

3. Related service providers work in collaboration with teachers to meet student needs.

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The following outlines how the goals of this plan are addressed.

Accessibility

A variety of communication systems are used to ensure information and expectations are clearly communicated to students, parents, and guardians. These systems can include email, text messages, phone calls, SeeSaw, Microsoft Teams, and printed/ 3-D materials. Online curricular supports are organized in individual student folders in Microsoft Teams to allow teachers, related service providers, and families with access to student work for the purpose of instructional support, lesson plans, and Individualized Distance Learning Plan progress monitoring. ACCEL will provide technical resources for students and families that do not have access to the necessary supports to be successful with Distance Learning.

Distance Learning Service Plan

Instruction Delivery

Distance learning can be synchronous or asynchronous, and it may or may not involve technology. Teachers may utilize a blend of real-time, adaptively timed, and technological and non-technological options which include, but not limited to, education packets of printed material sent home and/or school-issued iPads signed out for home use. Teachers and related service providers utilize a variety of curriculum resources to instruct students. (See Distance Learning Digital Curriculum & Resources.)

Instruction focuses on addressing IEP goals aligned with state standards and skills that are pertinent to moving forward in the future when the student returns to in-school instruction.

The primary teacher is responsible for setting up weekly lesson plans for in-home learning activities and providing Distance Learning lessons during school hours.

- Instructional time: 8:30am – 2:30pm, Monday – Friday

The special education staff continues to record accurate, real-time data on IEP goals and benchmarks. These data will be available to our district partners for review and progress monitoring.

Attendance

Students participating in remote and/or online learning receive instruction from a licensed special education teacher. Student attendance is taken each day distance learning is provided. ACCEL attendance practices align with the LEA requirement for daily contact needed. Our special education teachers will be taking attendance in our student information system during a remote learning day. Procedures are in place for a student to "check-in" to let the teacher know they have received their agenda for the day. This will allow the student to be present, but they will still need to complete the assigned tasks in order to participate in the class that day. Instructional hours can include direct instruction, student completion of assignments, participation in related services, independent learning, and group sessions.

Student Participation

Due to the variability of home learning environments as well as student communication and academic abilities, students engaged in distance learning have the freedom to complete assignments at their own time and pace. This accommodates the anticipated needs of parents and students to adjust their schedules due to parent work schedules, needs of other children in the home, and other personal needs of each student's family. Virtual learning participation is determined by the individual needs and abilities of each student.

Assessments

Formative assessments will be conducted throughout the distance learning process for each student. If a student is unable to participate in a summative assessment via distance learning, an alternative assessment will be administered to accommodate the student's needs.

Communication

Teachers and related service providers are available to communicate with students/families throughout any distance learning day. Certified staff have virtual office hours available daily, and these hours are shared with families.

Microsoft Teams Classroom and SeeSaw are the communication platforms used to connect with students and families.

Teachers and related service providers are available via a variety of means including email, phone, text, or online video chat technologies. The choice of the means of communication is dependent on the familiarity, convenience, and communication resources of the parents and staff.

Supports for Parents/ Guardians

Parents/guardians and family members may not be familiar or comfortable implementing learning at home for their children. Teachers, related service providers, and administration are available to work with them to provide support, which may take the form of a scripted lesson plan provided ahead of time, a telephone call to review the learning activity and how to deliver the lesson, or modeling the lesson on a virtual call. Guidance in the form of how to structure time at home and support a positive learning environment is available for parents/guardians. Suggestions on how to utilize strategies such as work break schedules, visual schedules, and visual supports is also provided.

Transition Back to In-School Learning

- In the case where a student wishes to return to in-school learning prior to every remote student returning, ACCEL requires parents to provide one week's notice prior to the desired date of return.
- During the week before in-school learning resumes for all remote students, teachers will make every effort to have a one on one video chat with each of their students to welcome them back and prepare them for returning to the building.
- During the first week back of in-school instruction, teachers will review work that was completed and/or not completed during Distance Learning days and provide time for supplementary instruction as needed with specific time set aside for students to acclimate to the educational setting and share their experiences during the time they were away from the school facilities.

Staff Professional Development

Professional development for staff is critical to their understanding and implementation of e-learning and continuity of learning opportunities. In order to effectively develop class and individual student programming for a remote learning environment, educational and related services teams use collaboration time to work together to learn best practices from internal and external sources. Staff with a level of confidence and competence with specific technology, tools, and specific educational resources are called upon to educate and mentor their peers, and/or provide technical support to students and parents as needed.

ACCEL provides parents, students, and school staff with opportunities to learn about how distance learning and continuity of learning days are structured, the expectations for each stakeholder, and the process of implementation. Multiple opportunities for discussion, questions, and collaboration are shared on an ongoing basis as a means of reviewing, implementing, and improving best practice delivery.

Distance Learning Digital Curriculum & Resources

Core Academic Comprehensive Curriculum

Resources	Description	Grade Level
Unique Learning Systems	ULS is explicitly designed to give students with complex learning needs meaningful access to all academic domains. From one convenient, cloud-based platform, educators deliver differentiated content enhanced by powerful assessments, data tools, and evidence-based instructional support.	K – 12+

DTTrainer	Evidence-based, direct instructional software program with 260 core academic and life skills content programs, hundreds of motivating reinforcers, and data tracking/assessment features that allow independent learning for individuals with mild to severe cognitive and developmental disabilities	K – 12+
Compass Learning Odyssey Program	Odyssey software for elementary and secondary students makes differentiating and personalizing instruction easier, and its formative assessments and reporting tools help educators use real-time data to drive critical instructional decisions.	K – 12+
IXL Comprehensive Curriculum	IXL is personalized learning. With a comprehensive K-12 curriculum, individualized guidance, and real-time analytics, IXL meets the unique needs of each learner.	K – 12+

Core Academic Resources

Resources	Description	Grade Level
Sheppard Software	An educational website, that has hundreds of free, online, learning games for kids. Subjects include - (geography, math, animals, science, language arts, creative activities, health) and lots of levels for all abilities.	K – 12+

TeachTown	TeachTown Basics offers a blend of computer-delivered and teacher-led ABA instruction proven to increase a student's vocabulary, listening skills, social-emotional development, independence, academics (literacy & mathematics) and cognitive skills.	K - 3
Khan Academy	Khan Academy offers practice exercises, instructional videos, and a personalized learning dashboard that empower learners to study at their own pace in and outside of the classroom.	K – 12+
Common Sense Education	You'll find apps that address foundational skills, boost social and emotional skills, and help kids with autism and other developmental disabilities follow a schedule. There are sites that help teachers differentiate learning and access resources for developing language and math literacy.	K – 12+
Education.com	Thousands of teacher-crafted learning activities that sync up with the school year, we empower parents and teachers so each child's needs and potential can take center stage.	K – 12+
Enchanted Learning	Enchanted Learning, LLC produces K-12 educational material that is published online. They have 35,000 pages on the website covering a wide range of academic topics.	K - 12+
Teachers Pay Teachers	Curriculum material platform with access to over 3 million resources	K – 12+

Help Kidz Learn	HelpKidzLearn - the home of accessible software, enabling children of all abilities to play, develop, and achieve.	K – 12+
Do2learn	Do2learn provides thousands of free pages with social skills and behavioral regulation activities and guidance, learning songs and games, communication cards, academic material, and transition guides for employment and life skills.	K – 12+
Freckle	A differentiated instructional program that covers Math, ELA, Social Studies, and Science.	K – 12+
The Kids Page	Hundreds of free kids games, puzzles, activities, coloring pages, clip art & more for children, families, parents, teachers. Free online games, puzzles, and kids printables.	Elementary
ABCya	ABCya provides over 400 fun and educational games for grades PreK through 6.	Pre-K – 6th
Brain Pop	Engaging games, interactive movies, and activities for all subjects.	K – 12+

Language Arts Resources

Resources	Description	Grade Level
Bookflix	Thematically paired fiction and nonfiction titles are designed to bridge	K – 12+

	learning-to-read and reading-to-learn. Animated classic storybooks introduce early learners to the delights of reading while sparking curiosity, creating a natural springboard into the paired nonfiction text for deeper discovery.	
Starfall	Starfall emphasizes on phonemic awareness, systematic sequential phonics, and common sight words in conjunction with audiovisual interactivity has proven effective in teaching emergent readers.	K – 12+
Storylineonline.com	Storyline Online is an excellent resource for children with learning disabilities like dyslexia. This website records free videos of narrators and sometimes well-known actors like Eva Longoria, reading children's books aloud. Students develop their literacy skills by following along with text as the literature comes alive.	K – 12+
Adatedmind.com	Discover hundreds of amusing reading and math activities illustrated by goofy monsters. Children will start with a quick pretest before engaging in video lessons and taking a confidence-boosting progress assessment.	K – 12+
Reading A - Z	Thousands of downloadable, projectable, printable teacher materials that cover all	K – 12+

	the skills necessary for effective reading instruction.	
News2You	News2You is a differentiated literacy program that connects students to real-world concepts and current events.	K – 12+

Mathematics

Resources	Description	Grade Level
Prodigy	A free, curriculum resource to learn and practice math. Accessible at home or in class!	$1^{st} - 8^{th}$
AAA Math	AAA Math features a comprehensive set of thousands of interactive arithmetic lessons.	K – 12+
Math Playground	This website covers math concepts in a fun interactive manner. The site has a variety of math topics, from problem-solving and mathematical art to real-world math and thinking games.	$1^{st} - 6^{th}$
Illustrative Mathematics	This program is a comprehensive suite of math curricula, designed to encourage engaging mathematical discussion, supported by tasks, lesson plans, and professional learning.	K – 12+

Science Resources

Resources	Description	Grade Level
Kids National Geographic	National Geographic Kids is a children's magazine published by the National Geographic Society that provides learning resources, activities, videos, games, and teaching resources.	K – 12+
PBS Learning	Science lessons and activities for students of all ages	K – 12+
Mystery Science	Hands-on and interactive science sharable lessons that align with state standards	K – 12+
Exploratorium. com	The Exploratorium is a public learning laboratory exploring the world through science, art, and human perception.	K – 12+