

# Soft School Closures and Students with Disabilities

## What Families Can Do

### Presented by:

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*Disclaimer: This information is meant to help parents support their students through the soft school closure measures in the state of Utah due to COVID-19. Although we may review official information provided by the Department of Education and the Office of Civil Rights, our intention is not to interpret guidance or provide anything that could be construed as legal advice. We are parents helping parents.*

*Please keep in mind that this information is continuously changing as the situation changes.*

## Parents' Worries/Concerns

- General educational expectations for students with disabilities
- Learning to use school learning platforms (Canvas, Aspire, Google Platforms, Zoom)
- Navigating Distance Learning
- Being overwhelmed with instructions from multiple teachers/for multiple children
- How to reach out to multiple teachers for support
- Students falling behind with instruction
- Not understanding the curriculum, content and topics covered in class
- Combating Isolation
- How will services and supports continue to be provided
- What if my student isn't making progress?

## What are the Expectations?

### Current Guidance from the Department of Education

- Continue efforts to include and instruct students with disabilities
- If schools are providing instruction for all students, they must continue to support students with disabilities as well

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- Instruction and accommodations will be implemented in different ways for students in each school district or charter school
  - Special education and related services can be provided through distance instruction (virtually, online, or by phone)
  - Think about creative solutions and out-of-the box ideas to support students

## Learning to Use School Learning Platforms

- Visit YouTube and search for tutorials.
- Call your school and ask about receiving individualized guidance and get a designated contact.
- Reach out to other students or family members that may have knowledge about these platforms.
- Learn by doing- simply attempt to understand the system by using it.
- Reach out to your team with technical difficulties

## Learning to Use School Learning Platforms

**Aspire:** <http://utah.pearsonaccessnext.com/training/>

**Canvas:**

<https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10745-canvas-basics-table-of-contents>

**Google Classroom:** <https://support.google.com/edu/classroom/?hl=en#topic=6020277>

**Google Hangouts/Meet:**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=14&v=kU4fyfHG-LY&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=14&v=kU4fyfHG-LY&feature=emb_logo)

**Google Docs:**

<https://meet.google.com/linkredirect?authuser=0&dest=https%3A%2F%2Fsupport.google.com%2Fa%2Fusers%2Fanswer%2F9300503>

**Zoom:** <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/206618765-Zoom-Video-Tutorials>

## Navigating Distance Learning

Develop a system of organization that works for your family

- Binder
- Calendar/Planner
- Whiteboard
- Multiple Apps

How to reach out to multiple teachers for support for the same student

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- Group email
  - Google Doc

Communicate with teachers to express concerns. Ask about additional support they can provide. Brainstorm innovative ways to provide support - phone call, other technology

## Resources for help with curriculum, content, and topics covered in class

[Khan Academy](https://www.khanacademy.org/) (math, science and engineering, computing, arts and humanities, economics and finance, test prep) <https://www.khanacademy.org/>

[Online Math Resources](https://utahparentcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Online-Math-Resources.pdf) (Aleks, etc.)

<https://utahparentcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Online-Math-Resources.pdf>

[Learning Resources by Subject](https://www.ck12.org/student/): <https://www.ck12.org/student/>

### [Guide to Educational Learning Games and Technologies](https://meet.google.com/linkredirect?authuser=0&dest=https%3A%2F%2Fies.ed.gov%2Fsbir%2Fpdf%2FFEDGamesExpo_GuideToGamesandTech_2020.pdf%3Futm_content%3D%26utm_medium%3Demail%26utm_name%3D%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery%26utm_term%3D)

[https://meet.google.com/linkredirect?authuser=0&dest=https%3A%2F%2Fies.ed.gov%2Fsbir%2Fpdf%2FFEDGamesExpo\\_GuideToGamesandTech\\_2020.pdf%3Futm\\_content%3D%26utm\\_medium%3Demail%26utm\\_name%3D%26utm\\_source%3Dgovdelivery%26utm\\_term%3D](https://meet.google.com/linkredirect?authuser=0&dest=https%3A%2F%2Fies.ed.gov%2Fsbir%2Fpdf%2FFEDGamesExpo_GuideToGamesandTech_2020.pdf%3Futm_content%3D%26utm_medium%3Demail%26utm_name%3D%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery%26utm_term%3D)

## Combating Isolation

For students that already struggle with mental health issues, having access to school personnel such as school psychologists, counselors, or social workers will be crucial.

You can request that service minutes continue if your child had services on their Section 504 or IEP plan.

If you have a child who is now showing the impact of the isolation, call the school to see if you can set up a virtual appointment with a school counselor, psychologist, or social worker.

**If your child or anyone in your household is experiencing mental health concerns, especially suicidal thoughts, please contact one of the following:**


### **WARMLINE: 801-587-1055**

This line is for Salt Lake County residents who are not in crisis, but seeking: support, engagement, or encouragement.

### **CRISIS SERVICES—CRISIS LINE: 801-587-3000**

Services are available 24/7 both locally and statewide as the Utah affiliate for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (1-800-273-8255).

SafeUT Crisis Chat & Tip Line



The SafeUT Crisis Chat and Tip Line is a statewide service that provides real-time crisis intervention to youth through live chat and a confidential tip program – right from your smartphone.

Licensed clinicians in our 24/7 CrisisLine call center respond to all incoming chats and calls by providing:

- supportive or crisis counseling,
- suicide prevention, and
- referral services.

We can help anyone with emotional crises, bullying, relationship problems, mental health, or suicide-related issues.

## How will Services and Supports be Provided

Depending on your child's individual needs, you may have to have conversations with your 504 coordinator or IEP team (depending on your child's plan) about how supports will be delivered and instruction made accessible. Some things to consider are:

- Assistive technology needs (screen readers, speech to text, text to speech, etc)
- Typical assignment and testing accommodations (extended time, reduced workload, etc)
- Related services (speech, orientation and mobility, occupational therapy, physical therapy, adaptive PE, etc)

## How will Services and Supports be Provided


Despite our best efforts, students may still experience a lack of progress or loss of skills. If this happens, the current system allows for future support in the form of compensatory services.

Compensatory Services:

- LEAs and parents can agree on what this looks like together
- They happen outside of the typical school day
- They help a student achieve the progress that would have otherwise been achieved
- Minutes awarded are based on a reasonable amount of time to gain skills, not based on the total amount of services missed

## Steps to Determine the Need for Compensatory Services

Both parents and LEAs can request an evaluation once a student is back at school.



Parents should keep track of information about their student's struggles and loss of skills as the result of lack of access to special education and related services.

- Keep track of proficiency scores on assignments he/she is struggling with
- Track difficulties with behavior related to learning curriculum or doing assignments
- Date your notes
- Keep work samples
- Document conversations with your child that explain their struggles

or more information, see [US Department of Education Q&A March 2020](#)

<https://www2.ed.gov/policy/speced/guid/idea/memosdcltrs/qa-covid-19-03-12-2020.pdf>

## General Tips and Words of Wisdom

- Remember that we are all in this together.
- If you have specific difficulties, school professionals want to hear from you. Keep in contact with your team, and let them know what you need or questions you have.
- Don't let issues mount and try to address them as they appear.
- Focus on one thing at a time, and prioritize what you think needs to be addressed first.
- Remember to be flexible, because the services and supports won't look the same as they did before.

## Contact Us...

In an effort to do our part in preventing the spread of COVID-19 the Utah Parent Center will be working remotely starting Monday March 16. We will remain **OPEN** and available to serve you via telephone, remote conferencing, and all other forms of electronic communication.

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