FAQ for Parents with Children With Individual Education Plans (IEPs) Who Receive Special Education Services

Every student with an IEP has a team of adults that come together to form a plan for the child’s education. This team includes Lakeview professional staff, principals, and the parents, whose goal is to determine what individual needs are necessary for each student. IEP teams will continue collaborating together during the 2020-21 school year under the current circumstances. Even though many decisions will be made on an individual basis through the IEP process, there are general, system questions that parents will often ask that we can answer outside of an IEP meeting. Please use this document as guidance and a reference for these types of general questions. Note that the answers provided here may change depending on changes in district procedures or State requirements, as the year progresses.

Lakeview Virtual School (LVS) Questions

The following questions relate specifically to the Kindergarten - 12th grade, LVS program which requires students to be engaged in a fully virtual classroom environment through Lakeview’s Lincoln Learning platform (LL). The last day to register for the LVS program is Friday, August 21. NOTE: the LVS program is different from the planned 50% student cohort, in-person and remote, hybrid learning structure which will happen in the brick and mortar schools starting on September 8.

Q: I am concerned about the virus and sending my child with an IEP to school in the in-person, remote hybrid learning model. Is the Lakeview Virtual School program an appropriate placement for my child who has a learning disability?
A: Studies show that a full virtual classroom works best for students who are highly motivated, achievement oriented, independent students with strong study habits. Many students (not all) with an IEP will have a difficult time within the LVS platform because it is demanding, rigorous, and requires significant time each day “logged in online”, completing assignments, writing answers to questions and papers, watching videos, practicing mathematics problems, etc. For these reasons, a parent should consult their student’s case manager and/or the Director of Students Services before deciding to enroll in the LVS program.

Q: Will my child receive special education services (Academics, Speech & Language, School Social Work) while attending LVS?
A: Yes, students will receive the services determined by their IEP goals through Lincoln Learning (LL) teachers. In addition, there may be some situations where Lakeview teachers and Lakeview service providers will also play a role (social work, speech, etc.). Each of these will be determined as needed from the student’s IEP. Some of these services may be arranged to take place in-person (with safety protocols) at a Lakeview building or virtually through a Zoom session. This will be determined on a case by case basis.
Q: How will the case managers collaborate with Lakeview mentors and Lincoln Learning (LL) teachers to ensure accommodations are in place?
A: Individual accommodations developed in the IEP process will be provided to LL teachers and to Lakeview mentors. Depending on the accommodation, most academic needs will be handled by LL teachers through direct contact with the student (and parent). Sometimes, case managers will collaborate and assist with implementing accommodations provided by the LL teacher. Again, the student’s IEP will guide this type of arrangement.

Q: Will my child have their current case managers/teachers/service providers when enrolled in LVS?
A: Case managers/teachers/service providers are assigned based on enrollment and may differ from year to year. We will attempt to provide current or familiar case managers when possible to students who enroll in the LVS program.

Q: Will my child’s case manager also be my child’s mentor?
A: This could be true, but not necessarily; it will be based on enrollment and staffing considerations, as well as past experience.

Q: If my child is struggling academically in LVS, who will they contact?
A: All questions regarding virtual lessons and assignments should be directed to the child’s Lincoln Learning teachers as they are primarily responsible to assist a student when struggling. Parents can make regular contact with the LL teacher through email and other methods the teacher might provide. If a parent has a concern about how IEP specific services are being provided, those questions can be directed to the Lakeview mentor teacher, the caseload manager or individual service provider (social work, speech, etc.). If a problem cannot be resolved through contact with the caseload manager, a parent can always contact the Director of Student Services office.

Q: Is the LVS program right for my child with an IEP?
A: Each student is unique so choosing to enroll in LVS really is an individualized decision. Special education services can be provided differently in the virtual environment than what students are accustomed to receiving in a building/classroom setting. Again, parents should consult with their caseload manager with additional, specific questions. More information about the LVS program is available on the Lakeview website under the “Enrollment” tab. Demo classes, an FAQ on LVS, and other supports.

Q: What will my child’s schedule look like as a Virtual Student?
A: Schedules will be developed by case managers, mentors and LVS administration. We recommend that all virtual students create and stick to a schedule that works well for their family needs. The schedule can be flexible, as long as it adheres to the expectation of students working (5) days a week on their coursework, completing at least (1) lesson per course, per day. All schedules will be developed on an individual basis, this is just a sample of what it could look like for a LVS student.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>SAMPLE SCHEDULE #1</th>
<th>SAMPLE SCHEDULE #2</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Similar to Regular School Day/Week</td>
<td>Flexible to Meet Student/Family Needs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Course 1: Maths</td>
<td>8:00 – 8:55 am</td>
<td>10:00 – 10:55 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Course 2: Eng</td>
<td>9:00 – 9:55 am</td>
<td>11:00 – 11:55 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Course 3: Sci</td>
<td>10:00 – 10:55 am</td>
<td>1:00 – 1:55 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Course 4: SS</td>
<td>11:00 – 11:55 am</td>
<td>2:00 – 2:55 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Course 5: Music</td>
<td>1:00 – 1:55 pm</td>
<td>7:00 – 7:55 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course 6: PE</td>
<td>2:00 – 2:55 pm</td>
<td>8:00 – 8:55 pm</td>
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Q: Does my child have to stay in LVS for the entire school year?
A: When enrolling in LVS, a parent is committing for the full school year. There may be circumstances where a student can transfer back to a building at the semester. A resident student will be permitted to transfer to a brick & mortar building, to attend the full second semester, IF THERE ARE SPOTS AVAILABLE; resident students are unable to make this switch during semesters. If there is not a spot available for second semester, a resident student will be guaranteed a seat in a brick & mortar building for the 21-22 school year
A school of choice student, who has transferred to LVS from a Lakeview brick & mortar building, will be permitted to transfer back to a brick & mortar building, to attend the full second semester, IF THERE ARE SPOTS AVAILABLE; school of choice students are unable to make this switch during semesters

Q: Since there is no virtual option for preschool aged children, what will be available if I choose not to send my child in person to the in-person, remote hybrid instruction?
A: We are currently working on what ECSE services will look like if a student is not here in person. We are considering some models we can implement to meet individual needs. More information will be provided soon.

For more information on our Lakeview Virtual School please see our district website and information here: Lakeview Virtual School Information

In-person and Remote Hybrid Questions:

Q: Will my child receive in-person services when attending the in-person and remote hybrid model?
A: Your teacher and service providers will provide services in-person that could include, small group work (socially distanced), individual work, or through a virtual platform such as zoom. Any of these options may be utilized depending on the service need and student IEP goals.

Q: Can my child enroll in LVS after school begins on September 8th?
A: All LVS enrollment must take place by FRIDAY AUGUST 21st.

Q: Will my child participate in small group instruction with students from other classes while in-person, if they are enrolled in the hybrid model?
A: Yes. Students in grades 3-12 might be participating in small group, special education instruction as long as masks are worn, barriers are in place and social distancing is implemented to the best of our ability. Students in K-2 will only be able to participate in small groups, special education instruction without masks with students from their same classroom.

Q: What will my child’s schedule look like as a Face to Face Hybrid Student?
A: Schedules will be determined for services based on cohort assignments. The district will be taking into consideration how to balance the need to participate in general education classrooms and classes, while also providing special education services per the student’s IEP and goals. Some services may be provided virtually, or in person, while students are enrolled in the in-person, remote hybrid model.
**Additional Questions:**

**Q: Will annual IEP meetings be held in person?**
A: Because the State Reopening requirements limit the size of indoor groups separate from students at school, Lakeview will continue to hold annual IEP meetings and other student related meetings virtually at this time. We will re-evaluate in the future in accordance with the Governor’s Executive Orders and the reopening of Michigan rules.

**Q: Does my child with a disability need to wear a mask?**
A: All students must follow the State directives and Lakeview’s COVID-19 Preparedness & Response Plan regarding masks unless they have medical documentation that states the student is unable to do so. So, all students in 3rd to 12th grade must wear masks at all times when at school (except for lunch). With medical documentation, a shield may be approved by a physician where a mask cannot be worn because of medical restrictions. Students in grades PreK - 2nd are encouraged to wear a mask in class, and must wear a mask anytime they are in the halls, or enter or exit the building. Teachers and staff are dedicated to working on mask wearing with students.

**Q: How will my child’s special education services change if we move back to full remote learning due to the Governor placing all schools in our area into Phase 3, where in-person learning is not allowed?**
A: Each child’s IEP team will develop a Contingency Learning Plan (CLP). This plan will help to prepare for how learning and services will look should our environment change because of an executive order to close the schools, or need to be home for self quarantine due to COVID-19. These plans will be completed within a timely manner with each child’s IEP and goals being the center of the plan.

**Q: What safety procedures and protocols will be in place for my child?**
A: The State Roadmap to Reopening Schools defined all the requirements for schools to open safely. Lakeview has adopted these requirements and other recommendations in our COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan, which includes specific guidance from the Macomb County Health Department (MCHD). Lakeview has posted all of these on our website, including the Plan and MCHD protocols listed here (click link to view documents): MCDH Covid-19 Protocols