

Dear Parents of Students on IEPs, Kindergarten-Grade 12, including Transition Services,

I hope this message finds you and your family doing well.

The purpose of this communication is to follow up with you regarding the letter you received on Friday, July 17 from Superintendent Ewert and subsequent communication about the TOPS program. You may be wondering what options are available to your child since they have an Individual Education Program (IEP). At this point, all students, kindergarten through grade 12, including Transition Services, will have the option to do in-person learning with health and safety measures in place or to enroll in the LPS Temporary Online Program for Students (TOPS). Currently, those are the only options available to LPS students. There will not be a blended/hybrid option (in person and online/TOPS). Special education supports and services will be provided within each option, according to your child's IEP and their needs. If you are feeling like the alternate online option would be better for your child, but you are concerned with how that will meet your child's needs, please still enroll in the TOPS program. Once we know your intention, we will be able to plan for the individualized supports that your child may need. Students supported through TOPS will have access to a special education team of professionals to support your child's needs, and will also maintain a connection to the special education team at their home school.

It may also be important to have some other details in order to make the decision for your child. First, students with special transportation indicated on their IEP will still receive that service if they are returning to in-person learning. All students and staff will be expected to wear masks to school. There will be a process for mask exemption requests for students with a health, medical or disability-related reason why they cannot wear a mask. Additionally, we are actively planning health and safety measures that include Personal Protective Equipment and personal care protocols, specifically to support the needs of all children, including those with special education needs.

I understand this is a very challenging time and realize that each of you are trying to make the best decision for your family. I hope this additional information is helpful in making an informed decision. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Warmly,

Melissa Cooper  
Director of Student Support Services