



# Coeur d'Alene Public Schools

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER  
1400 N. Northwood Center Court, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814

OFFICE 208.664.8241

FAX 208.664.1748

[www.cdaschools.org](http://www.cdaschools.org)

August 21, 2020

Dear parents and guardians of students eligible for special education services,

Coeur d'Alene Public Schools is excited for students and staff to return to school the week of September 14. Please know that our special education staff miss your student(s) greatly, and we sincerely hope that your family has remained healthy and safe during this time.

During this pandemic, we've crafted a reopening plan that allows students to return to school for in-person learning, blended learning, or online learning. We also are opening a new, optional online school, the CDA eSchool, that will serve K-12 students for the entire school year. The reopening plan also outlines the steps we will take to promote the safety and wellness of staff and students and how we will adapt instruction, should the COVID-19 pandemic in our community worsen, or should any of our schools need to close temporarily to in-person instruction in response to positive cases or virus exposures.

On Monday, August 17, our Board of Trustees voted to start the new school year on September 14 (one week later) in the Orange (Moderate Risk) category. This means schools will use Blended Learning, with students attending two days for in-person instruction and three days for at-home instruction. On August 24, the Board will vote on whether to approve the District's complete reopening plans. It will continue to be extremely important for families and schools to collaborate and communicate as we continue to offer and provide special education services in accordance with our obligation to provide a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE).

As we continue to prepare for everything from in-person instruction to distance learning, you may be wondering what this means for your child who has been receiving special education services through an Individual Education Plan (IEP). This letter is intended to provide you with some explanation of actions to be taken by the school district, and how the district plans to continue to support all students in the days ahead.

The district will continue to provide FAPE while also considering the need to protect the health and safety of the entire school community. In this unique and ever-changing environment, the district recognizes that these exceptional circumstances may affect how academic and related services and supports are provided. As schools reopen, IEP teams must determine what will constitute FAPE for each student.

This year we are asking families to work with their IEP teams to create an Individual Distance Learning Plan (IDLDP). This plan is an outline for services when the district is in Orange (blended learning), or in the event we move to Red (fully distance learning) risk category. Services will continue to be provided as indicated in the IEP following the service delivery model for the various stages of risk. Because instruction will be provided in different formats at each level, the IEP teams will identify services and supports addressing current IEP goals and services as follows:

- Category Yellow (minimal risk) means students will receive in-person instruction every school day as well as in-person special education services utilizing masks and other measures to ensure the health and safety of our staff and students.
- Category Orange (moderate risk) means that half of the school's student population will attend Monday/Tuesday for in-person learning while the other half attend Thursday/Friday; this means that

## **INVEST | INSPIRE | INNOVATE**

We invest in each student to prepare, challenge and advance well-educated, resilient and future-ready citizens.



# Coeur d'Alene Public Schools

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER  
1400 N. Northwood Center Court, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814

OFFICE 208.664.8241

FAX 208.664.1748

[www.cdaschools.org](http://www.cdaschools.org)

regardless of schedule, all students will have distance learning on Wednesday and on the other two days of the week they are not attending school in person.

- Category Red (substantial risk) means that buildings are closed and all students will work remotely.

We are exploring all options of delivering services and maximizing in-person learning for all students with special needs to the greatest extent possible. This is going to take additional time to plan and orchestrate as we continue to follow all health and safety guidelines. We will be communicating with families as soon as we have more information.

For students registered for the CDA eSchool, please note that while services are available, the student's IEP will need to be adjusted to take into account the new learning environment. Parents will work with the eSchool case manager to adjust the IEP for their student. Please remember that IEPs are generally written with services being provided in-person. Therefore, parents must remember that the provision of FAPE will include amendments, as appropriate, to special education and related services through distance instruction provided virtually, online, or telephonically. The Special Education Department will share more information on what services will look like for students enrolled in the CDA eSchool and how its staff will team with parents as partners in online learning.

The Coeur d'Alene Public Schools Special Education Department continues to follow the most current guidance we receive from the U.S. Department of Education and the Idaho State Department of Education. Please know that students with IEPs are general education students first, and as such all IEP teams will need to follow the guidelines and mandates as approved by the Board of Trustees for any in-person learning. As the educational situation for all students evolves, we want to work together with you to face this challenge.

Thank you for your ongoing partnership as we work together to address your child's individual needs during the district's reopening. As a reminder, the most recent information about district communications and resources are always posted on the Coeur d'Alene Public Schools website: <https://www.cdaschools.org>. Contact information for district-level special education staff can be found at <https://www.cdaschools.org/specialeducation>. You can email us at [info@cdaschools.org](mailto:info@cdaschools.org), or call our main office at 208-664-8241. When we receive your message, a special education department staff member will be in contact with you as soon as possible. Please know the administration and special education staff in all of our buildings are dedicated to working with you, our family partners, to face this unprecedented challenge together. Don't hesitate to reach out at any time.

Sincerely,

Frank Maier  
Director of Special Education  
Coeur d'Alene Public Schools

**INVEST | INSPIRE | INNOVATE**

We invest in each student to prepare, challenge and advance well-educated, resilient and future-ready citizens.