How are we supporting students with exceptionalities in AMDSB?

We recognize the additional challenges for parents and for their children who have special needs. Our school teams will work with students with special needs to find supportive solutions.

In preparation for school reopenings amid COVID-19 precautions, Avon Maitland District School Board has a comprehensive plan to support students with special education needs.

1. The Return to School Transition Program will be offered to students with significant needs as a way to help them make a smooth return to school. School staff will be creating personalized transition plans for students, which may include opportunities to visit the school prior to the September opening.

2. Individual Education Plans will be updated in the first 30 days to reflect student’s individual learning circumstances. Families will continue to have the opportunity for input so that the IEP has clear goals that reflect their strengths and needs.

3. School-based support (Classroom Teachers, Special Education Resource Teachers, Educational Assistants, STRIVE CYWs) along with system support staff will continue to communicate and collaborate to develop the best possible program and support for students.

4. Learning Services staff will continue to receive referrals for specific services to support transition needs during the return to school period. Specific safety protocols will be in place for itinerant staff to minimize any risks.

5. We are awaiting additional guidance on mask exemptions for students with a pre-existing condition which prevents them from being able to wear a mask. Further details will be provided as soon as possible.

6. Students with significant health, medical and/or special education needs who choose to continue online learning from home will be supported by an assigned teacher. Learning will be provided through an online platform such as Google Classroom with synchronous and asynchronous learning and check-ins from their teacher. School based and Learning Services staff will be engaged to ensure programming is accessible and reflects the student’s IEP.

7. Staff working in close proximity to students, including toileting support, will be provided with additional personal protective equipment.

8. Nursing support for students choosing the in-school option will continue to be available at school.

9. Individualized Specialized equipment required for students will continue to be available for use in the classroom. Students doing online learning at home will have their specialized technology available to them at home.

10. School Therapy from Thames Valley Children’s Centre will continue to be available to students attending face to face. A commitment to offering an adapted model for speech therapy services has been made for students choosing the online learning model.

11. Programming for students accepted into the SOAR program will continue in a virtual model. Opportunities for virtual modules for learners identified as gifted in grades 7 - 10 will be available.