

**Q. How do providers of course choice plan for collaboration with the special education teacher?**

A. The LDOE Course Choice (CC) office will require each home school to designate a site point person with whom the Course Choice Providers/Course Instructor(s) and LDOE will communicate. Additionally, each home school will provide a list of students enrolled in Course Choice course(s) who have a current IEP with instructional or testing accommodations. Those accommodations, if applicable, will be communicated to the CC Providers and must be provided by the Course Choice instructor. Appropriate LEA release forms are used to document sharing of this information (i.e., IEPs, IAPS, 504 accommodations, IHP, gifted and talented, etc.). Specific confidentiality guidelines at school sites, LDOE, and Course Choice Providers will be maintained.

Additionally, all approved Course Choice Providers are required to outline their collaboration plan with the Local Education Agency (LEA), including communication and process for accessing student data. All providers will be required to report progress at regular intervals to the LEA/school designee. Monitoring of instruction, including the provision of reasonable accommodations is the responsibility of the LDOE and part of the providers' annual evaluation.

Providers have various features that enhance communication among relevant parties. As responsible consumers, those interested in a specific course offered by providers should investigate their communication features for students, school personnel, and families.

**Q. Will IEPs need to be rewritten?**

A. Request(s) to reconvene an IEP meeting may be initiated by *any* IEP committee member whenever a new concern arises.

Committee consideration surrounding a family's decision to enroll in Course Choice (CC) should focus on the following questions ***with the new needs reflected in the IEP revision:***

- a) Can a Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) be provided around a CC decision? Describe.
- b) If FAPE cannot be provided within a CC decision or needs further support, what will the committee plan to meet the child's needs? Describe.

NOTE: Some course providers have extensive experience as working partners with IEP committees. In every case of Course Choice enrollment, every efforts should be made to choose the course and provider best suited to a student's special learning needs.

**Q. What if a student with disabilities chooses a course that is their identified area of need (i.e. Math) and has general education minutes detailed on their IEP?**

A. IEP direct instructional minutes are the responsibility of the LEA and those IEP committee members who signed off on that IEP. Scheduling to assure the provision of those minutes is the responsibility of the LEA.

Most online course work has flexibility built in; student may take asynchronous courses at any time. Coordination of scheduling is important so that the provision of IEP direct instructional minutes and online coursework remain separate. Reasonable instructional and testing accommodations must be provided by Course Choice providers once they receive notification of those accommodations from the student's home LEA. Responsibility of monitoring the provision of those accommodations during online time lies with the course provider and the LDOE.

**Q. How does the special education teacher "go" into the class to either co-teach or provide inclusion support?**

A. Scheduling of special education services/teachers is the responsibility of the local administration.

**Q. How do we prevent the resource room from becoming the "homework hut" or the "testing center" or the "completion of classwork" room for course choice?**

A. The operation of a resource room where Special Education minutes are provided is under the jurisdiction of the LEA who is responsible for the appropriate provision of services to students with IEPs. (At LDOE, the Office of Student Services monitors provision of these services.)

Course Choice instructors are responsible for the work of their students. Most providers have online help features such as live tutors and "office hours" etc. to assist students with work and assignments. Course Choice providers are expected to regularly check for understanding and intervene as well as monitor student needs as successful completion of online course work is part of their accountability.

**Q. Are guidance counselors aware that there is a possibility that students will have general education minutes listed on their IEPs that must be accounted for?**

A. The LDOE has set up a Course Choice Counselors Assistance Center with specially-trained counselors to assist LEA counselors regarding registration, counseling, and responsibilities in facilitating the Course Choice Program. Part of those responsibilities will be in regards to providing information to the LDOE for students with disabilities who enroll in Course Choice.

**Q. Are there some courses in which students with disabilities will not be allowed to enroll?**

A. Yes, some courses will have academic prerequisites and/or physical requirements students must meet to enroll. The course description will state these prerequisites

**NOTE:**

Previously addressed questions relevant to Special Education Services are referenced in general FAQs, # 38 and # 39.