

# conversation starters

## FOR PARENTS AS OUR DHH KIDS RETURN TO SCHOOL

### MASKS

- What type of masks will the adults interacting with my child be wearing? Will a functional listening evaluation be performed to see how well my child can understand their speech with a mask?
- Are masks required for teachers and students? If so, will clear masks be used by both teachers and peers? Why or why not?
- Will ear savers or masks that tie around the head be available if my child has issues with ear loop masks? Will those be supplied by the school or by the family?
- When using clear masks, will anti-fog spray be used to cut down on fogging?

### HEARING ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY (HAT)

- Will my child be allowed to take HAT with charger, audio cable, and all components home for instruction taking place via e-learning or hybrid instruction?
- Has the HAT been tested with various masks and face shields? How will the school gather information about how HAT performs in different learning environments in order to choose the most appropriate seating position?
- What is the plan for disinfecting the transmitter between users? Will my child still be responsible for transporting between classes or teachers?

### SOCIAL DISTANCING

- How will desks be spread out? Will students all be facing the same direction? How will an appropriate seat be chosen for my child?
- Will the teachers be asking for my child's feedback on seating positions?
- Will instruction be taking place in larger areas or outside? If so, what adjustments will be made to ensure that my child has full access?

### CLOSED CAPTIONING/PRINTED MATERIALS

- Will virtual instruction take place on a learning platform that has access to closed captions?
- Will teachers make sure their face is visible when recording videos or teaching virtually?
- Will all videos have closed captions?
- Will printed material or PowerPoints be available to increase access to instruction?

### IEP MEETINGS

- When will my student's IEP be updated with any necessary changes to services, service delivery, or accommodation changes due to virtual/hybrid instruction or social distancing?
- Can we set up regular check-ins to review my student's IEP and make any needed changes or additions since new issues may come up?

### HELPFUL RESOURCES

- Department of Education on Providing Services to Children with Disabilities During Covid-19  
[https://bit.ly/DOE\\_COVID19](https://bit.ly/DOE_COVID19)
- Supporting Success for Children with Hearing Loss  
[https://bit.ly/HOH\\_Success](https://bit.ly/HOH_Success)
- Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Education Continuing Guidance  
[https://bit.ly/DHH\\_Ed](https://bit.ly/DHH_Ed)



**If you have questions or would like more information, feel free to contact Elynn McCall at [elynn.mccall@hearindiana.org](mailto:elynn.mccall@hearindiana.org) or 317-828-0211.**