



Special Education Transition Night
Frequently Asked Questions
Elementary to Middle School

Q: When holding a transition IEP meeting, does a representative from the middle school level attend the meeting to respond to questions specific to middle school?

A: A middle school representative may participate in the transition IEP meeting, when possible. However, when a middle school representative is unable to participate in the transition IEP meeting, the case manager will be able to address the supports, services, and schedules available for your child at each middle school.

Q: How can I become more informed about the support and services middle schools offer prior to my transition IEP meeting?

A: All parents can request to tour a middle school by contacting the school site principal/administrator. A school site administrator will conduct the tour and provide information specific to the supports and services the school site offers. We encourage you to participate in school tours - both your neighborhood school and your school choice sites.

Q: Can I submit a “School Choice” application for my student? What if the IEP team names a school that is different than my school of choice?

A: Yes, all parents have the right to submit a “School Choice” application. If the IEP team names a school that is different than your school of choice that was approved, parents have the right to disagree with the IEP team’s recommendation of services and placement and enroll their child in the approved school of choice. When a difference occurs, we will work with you through the IEP meeting process to resolve the difference.

Q: When will my student receive his/her schedule?

A:

Los Cerritos Middle School (LCMS)- All students and parents with an IEP are invited the day before school starts to an orientation to meet the Principal and the special education staff. At this time they will be given their class schedules with teachers and room numbers.

Redwood Middle School (RMS)-All students receive a schedule at orientation, typically scheduled for the week before school. Students with an IEP receive a schedule with specific classes, teachers and room numbers.

Sequoia Middle School (SMS)-All students receive a preliminary schedule at Orientation before school starts; the orientation is typically the week before the first day of school. Students who are not able to attend orientation can pick up their schedule during a scheduled make up day. Finalized schedules are distributed on the quad in the morning of the first day of school.

Colina Middle School (CMS)- All students receive a schedule at Sixth Grade Orientation providing the room numbers and teachers. Sixth Grade Orientation is typically the last day of Cougar Camp, which is scheduled for the week before school begins.

Sycamore Middle School (SycMS)- All students will receive a copy of their schedule during orientation approximately a week before school starts. Students who miss orientation will be provided a copy of their schedule before school begins on the first day of school. Students and parents can also access the schedule through Q.

Q: When can we meet the teachers?

A:

RW-Although there is no guarantee, the goal is to have the special education teachers at orientation to meet students and families.

SMS- All students will meet their teachers on the first day of school.

CMS- Most Special Education teachers are on campus during the days leading up to school. Many students come by and practice walking through his/her schedule during this time. Teachers are usually able to briefly meet with parents and students to introduce themselves.

SycMS- All students meet their teachers on the first day of school. However many teachers volunteer during orientation, providing students an opportunity to meet staff before school starts.

Q: How is the case manager assigned?

A:

LCMS- Case managers are assigned based on the needs of the student. If possible, the case manager would be either their English or math teacher. If they only receive “consultation” services the case manager will contact the parent. Each case manager will also send an introduction letter to each of the student’s parents on their caseload at the beginning of the school year.

RW-Case managers are assigned based off of student need, which is communicated by previous case manager at the articulation day. The case manager is usually your students English or math teacher if possible, but at least a teacher they see during their day.

SMS- Case Managers are assigned to students after close communication with the students previous case managers. Site administration may also meet to discuss the student needs when assigning case managers.

CMS- Case managers are assigned based off of students’ needs. Many times the case manager is a teacher the student has within the school day. Students only requiring “consultation services” may/may not attend the case managers classroom daily, but the case manager will be in contact with students as documented on the IEP.

SycMS - Case managers are assigned based off of students’ needs. Many times the case manager is a teacher the student has within the school day. Students only requiring “consultation services” may/may not attend the case managers classroom daily, but the case manager will be in contact with students as documented on the IEP.

Q: When will my student meet the case manager?

A:

LCMS- Students can meet their case manager the day before school begins at our SPED orientation and/or the first days of school.

RW-They can meet at orientation or on the first day of classes since their case manager will be one of their SAI teachers. Consult/Collab students’ case managers will reach out to students once school starts.

SMS- Students will typically meet their case managers during the first days of school

CMS- The first day of school parents are notified of student’s case manager.

SycMS - They can meet their case manager at orientation or on the first day of classes since their case manager will likely be one of their SAI teachers. Consult/Collab students' case managers will reach out to students once school starts.

Q: How will the middle school case manager know about my student's individual needs?

A: Your student's current case manager will meet with the special education department chair from the middle school to review your student's IEP after the transition IEP meeting. The case manager will share information on current levels of performance, services, learning styles, strategies, preferences, etc.

Q: How will my student receive help with locating classes and lockers?

A:

LCMS- Students who come to the SPED orientation the day before school begins will be given their schedules with room numbers. This is a great opportunity to practice walking through the halls to find their classrooms and lockers. Also, on the first days of school there are student helpers and teachers in the hallways to help the students.

RW-It is recommended that your student practice walking through their schedule when they receive their schedule and locker assignment at orientation. If support is needed once when school starts there are campus supervisors, paras and teachers to assist as needed.

SMS- All students attend the orientation before the first day of school and are able to pick up their preliminary schedule, locks and have their lockers assigned to them. W.E.B. leaders are present and are available to help students with the questions that they have. Staff and student leaders are available the morning of the first day of school to help students locate their classes.

CMS- Cougar Camp, traditionally held the week before school begins, is a great time to assist new students in becoming familiar with the campus. It is highly suggested that all students attend. Supports can be arranged ahead of time so all students are able to access, participate and become familiar with the campus. The last day of Cougar Camp is Sixth Grade Orientation. This is the day students receive lockers and class schedule. ASB students, W.E.B. leaders, teachers, and administrators are on campus to escort students through schedules and assist with lockers. Locker "issues" can also be

documented at Sixth Grade Orientation so changes can be made and parents be notified before the first day of school.

SycMS-It is recommended that students practice walking through their schedule when they receive it at orientation. We do not have lockers on our school site. On the first day of school and/or during orientation, ASB students and other staff will be out helping students find their way around campus.

Q: What does the typical day look like?

A:

LCMS- 6th grade LCMS Leopards will have four core academic classes and then after lunch they will have their elective and Physical Education classes. Each day, Monday-Friday begins at 8:55 am (unless a student has an “A” period). Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday school ends at 3:10 pm. Every Tuesday, LCMS has a minimum day schedule where students are dismissed at 1:55 pm. LCMS does have an “RTI” schedule on specific block weeks throughout the year, which will only affect the student’s time during their day on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

RW-All students will have four core academic classes, physical education and an elective class. Additionally, students will have a 10 minute nutrition and 30 minute lunch break.

SMS- Sequoia is on a block schedule that consists of three 90 minute academic classes daily. Students have three classes on “A” day and the other three classes on “B” day; the days continue rotating A,B,A,B. In addition, there is also a daily period called CREW (As a Sequoia CREW we focus on compassion, responsibility, empowerment and our well-being) that meets before or after lunch. On Mondays and Fridays during CREW, all students participate in social-emotional lessons that promote mindfulness, positive character traits and school belonging. On Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, students silent read, complete homework/school work or participate in intervention. Students have a 15 minute nutrition break and a 40 minute lunch break as well. The school day begins at 8:45 AM and ends at 2:55 PM. Approximately twice a month on Tuesday, students are dismissed early at 1:30 PM. There are also “0” period classes (band, chorus and strings) that meet at 7:55 AM.

CMS- School wide, sixth grade students have all four academic classes in the morning, followed by elective and P.E. in the afternoon. After Period 2, there is a ten minute nutrition break. Lunch is after Period 4.

SycMS- All students will have four core academic classes, physical education and an elective class. Additionally, students will have a nutrition break between periods 2 & 3 and lunch break after 4th period.

Q: What if my student has difficulty changing for PE?

A:

LCMS- Students do not dress out for PE the first week of school. If your student is having a difficult time with the dressing out please feel free to reach out to their case manager and general education teacher to help meet the student's individual needs.

RW- Dressing out for PE does not start on the first day of school. If your student is having difficulty changing please reach out to your case manager to discuss options.

SMS- Students do not start dressing out for Physical Education classes the first week of school. The case manager will work with the teachers and student to support in this area.

CMS- The case manager will work with teachers and supporting services providers to develop a plan that works to meet student's individual needs in regards to dressing out for PE.

SycMS - The case manager will work with teachers and supporting services providers to develop a plan that works to meet student's individual needs in regards to dressing out for PE.

Q: Will my student receive transportation to their middle school?

A: Transportation services are offered when your child's services and needs cannot be provided at your home school and subsequently a different school site is named as part of the IEP process. Please know, students who go to parent-selected school choice sites are not necessarily entitled to special education transportation services.

Q: Can we reach out to parents who have gone through the Transition process to ask questions?

A: Every school site has a SEDAC representative that may assist with responding to questions or connect you with a parent that has gone through the transition process. Please contact your school site principal to request for your SEDAC representative.

Q: Where can we find the copy of tonight's powerpoint and responses of FAQs?

A: A copy of the PPT and FAQs reviewed tonight will be posted on the District's website, under Special Education.