Family Decision Making Tool

With the COVID pandemic, the decision to have your child return to school might be difficult. This tool will help you make the decision that is best for your child and family. All final decisions about delivery of special education will be made in collaboration with your child's Individualized Education Plan (IEP) team.

1. Recognize your goals and concerns.

What are the reasons you want your child to go to school?

What are your concerns if your child does not return to in-person instruction at school?

2. Understand the risks for your child.

Think about your school community—what is happening for masking, testing, vaccinating, and use of protective equipment? How confident are you that your school can keep your child safe? Why?

Ask your child's teachers and health care providers about their concerns for your child attending in-person school, and list them here. Your child's primary care provider may be a trusted source for helping you make that decision. The school nurse can also assist with informing your decision.

3. Figure out your options.

Talk to your child's school about your child's options. Some examples that might be available through your School District include:

- In-person in their regular routines
- In-person, short schedule (fewer hours or days)

- In-person with exposure to fewer people
- Virtual to start, with option to return in person

- Fully virtual all school year
- Homebound instruction
- Others—what do you think would work best?

Option 1: _____

Option 2: _____

Option 3: _____

What additional services or supports, such as assistive technology, might be needed depending upon the instructional environment?

- **Weigh your options.**
Put each of the options you listed in #3 in this table, listing the benefits and challenges of each.

Option	Benefits	Challenges

- **Gather more information. Decide when ready.**
To finish this tool, talk to some of your trusted supports about this, including teachers, primary clinicians, therapists, specialists, other families, etc. to finish this tool. Also consider how this could be included in your child's 504 or IEP.
  - Centers for Disease Control (CDC): cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html?deliveryName=USCDC_1054-DM26731#Children-and-Youth-with-Special-Healthcare-Needs
  - American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP): services.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/clinical-guidance/covid-19-planning-considerations-return-to-in-person-education-in-schools/
  - University of Wisconsin: reset4kids.org
  - Family Voices of Wisconsin: familyvoiceswi.org/
  - Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI): dpi.wi.gov/sped/covid-19-sped-updates-and-resources

Make this decision when **you** feel ready (you understand the reasons, risks, benefits, options) and have a preference.