

NCSS School Based Supports During COVID-19

As we navigate these uncharted waters of extended school dismissal related to COVID-19, NCSS continues to support students, families, schools, and communities through a variety of collaborative and creative strategies. At maybe no point during our partnership with schools has communication been more important, and as such outlining the steps our programs are taking to ensure continued treatment and support is essential.

Collaborative Achievement Team (CAT)	School Based Autism Team
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maintaining connections with parents and clients via phone and telehealth platforms, and providing support up to multiple times weekly - Working with families on in home reinforcement planning, transferring behavioral programming to the home setting, supporting academics as needed, and facilitating emotional regulation through Yoga 4 Classrooms and mindfulness activities. - Connecting with school teams, including teachers and special educators, multiple times each week to keep communication open regarding how students are doing academically and ways we can support, and relaying information from the family to school about struggles the report with remote learning. - Supporting continued social emotional leaning through SEL games, social stories, and conversation - Assisting families with identifying and accessing other needed supports like childcare and food assistance - Direct connections and support with BIs as appropriate. - Supporting schools and communities by assisting with meal preparation, food delivery, and essential worker daycare. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development and implementation of a range of individualized supports to meet the needs of each client and team, including regular check-ins with parents and schools, adaptation of behavior plans to the home setting, and helping families create new routines. - Working with families to create and implement new visual schedules, reinforcement plans, and environmental supports to increase self-regulation, motivation, and task completion in the home environment. - Coordinating with teachers and special educators in creating new materials to support IEP goals and ensuring they are delivered to families, as well as continual communication to target supports and assistance in a way that is most beneficial to the student and family. - Creation of new home-school communication logs, data sheets, and documentation to better align with the absence of face to face services and ensure seamless communication and ongoing progress monitoring. - Assisting with identifying and connecting families with other supports such as family and individual counseling. - Working to arrange face to face sessions with BI and/or Consultant to directly support accessing academics and behavior intervention. - Supporting schools and communities by assisting with meal preparation, food delivery, and essential worker daycare.
School Based Clinicians	School Based Behavior Consultation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Providing daily therapy, service coordination, and family intervention via telehealth or phone - Facilitating family access to resources and support in navigating these identified resources - Ongoing communication with parents in the areas of psychoeducation and supportive counseling to cope with stressors (which has been a lot since this began) - Attending weekly guidance and school based meetings as requested - Development of SEL treatment work to support ongoing learning, and resource sharing with educators and guidance staff - Increased levels of support to students identified as high risk by clinicians, as well opening new clients identified by school staff - Providing medication management for clients accessing SBC as their only NCSS service - Assistance with meal and technology delivery as requested 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assisting with transition to distance learning and facilitating communication between schools and families - Facilitating weekly Behavior Support Team meetings to identify students and families that may need additional supports - Providing scheduled phone support to families to support the home environment as it relates to distance learning - Developing materials to support positive behaviors that families can easily implement and are similar to those used in school - Facilitating virtual reinforcement contingent on meeting home and/or academic expectations - Consultation with classroom teachers with the goal of maximizing student engagement in distance learning, identifying relevant behavioral accommodations, and ensuring supports are efficient and not overwhelming. - Collaborating with school based clinicians and other service providers to maximize effectiveness of supports

A note about school services: The monies we receive via contracts with schools pay for only part of the support these teams provide; it is the ability to bill Medicaid that supports these programs in full, and allows us to contract with schools for far less than the cost of providing these services. While the system realigns itself for this time, our BI program consultants, school based clinicians, and school based behavior consultants remain fully engaged in coordinating with schools, supporting families, and connecting directly with students. Every indication is that the longer this dismissal continues, the more families are willing and eager to access NCSS services to support student behavior and mental and emotional health, and NCSS will be there to meet that need.