

## 20 Questions for Parents to Ask if Considering a Virtual School for A Special Needs Child

1. What type of virtual school program do you offer? (100% online or hybrid and grades of students served)
2. Do you allow students with special needs at your school?
3. How many students do special education teachers have on their caseload?
4. What level of special education support do you provide (daily, weekly, monthly, home visits)
5. What am I, as the parent, expected to do?
6. How will my child's IEP be managed?
7. What curriculum do you use?
8. How is it determined which of the curriculum the student will use?
9. How does this curriculum meet special learning needs?
10. What materials come free with enrollment?
11. My child is not performing at grade level. How many levels below their age-appropriate grade level can my child be placed in?
12. What extra help options does your school provide for students that struggle? (study hall, tutoring, alternative curriculum)
13. How are services like Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy and Speech and Language delivered at your school?
14. My child has severe anxiety and cannot handle the normal workload. Are their accommodations that are allowed for extra time, breaking tasks down, etc.?
15. Are live (in person or online) classes offered? Are they required?
16. How flexible is your program? Do I need to log in daily?
17. Do you have a credit recovery option for high school students short on credits?
18. Do students get a diploma when they graduate from your school?
19. Will my child get assistance planning and preparing for post school employment and education activities?
20. Do you offer Extended School Year?

### **About the author:**

Colleen Kluber, M.Ed. is passionate about learning options for children with special needs. A former educator and administrator at a virtual school, Colleen understands that with all of the schooling options available, knowledge is power for parents to make informed decisions. They also need continued support after those schooling decisions are made. She spends her time consulting with virtual schools and speaking to educator and parent groups throughout the United States. In her free time, she enjoys blogging at [www.interventiongal.com](http://www.interventiongal.com). She can also be reached at [colleenkluber@gmail.com](mailto:colleenkluber@gmail.com).