



Special Education at BCA Overview



Lowell School District provides Special Education (SpEd) services to Bridge Charter Academy (BCA) students through a virtual model. Our SpEd team is dedicated to empowering students to reach their full potential, fostering self-respect, and promoting independence as lifelong learners.

Benefits of the Virtual SpEd Program at BCA +

- No additional trips to campus required
- SDI sessions in the comfort of the student's home
- No commute time, minimizing disruptions to the student's schedule
- Smaller virtual groups can reduce sensory overload and increase focus
- Fewer social demands can make for a more comfortable social experience

Key Details About the Virtual SpEd Program 🔍

- SDI is provided virtually by qualified staff.
- IEP goals may be addressed in the gen ed setting during the weekly BCA cohort meeting when appropriate.
- Students must regularly attend SDI sessions to remain in the program.
- If attendance issues persist, an IEP placement meeting will determine if BCA can continue to meet the student's needs.
- If the student requires services that cannot be effectively delivered in a virtual setting, the team must reject the BCA placement.
- Parents must sign the teletherapy consent form to participate in virtual SpEd services.

How to Transfer to BCA with an IEP ↗

1. Complete enrollment paperwork.
2. BCA will request records from the previous district. Parents may submit any IEP/SpEd paperwork directly to support the team in developing the student's plan more efficiently.
3. Initial IEP meetings will occur within 10 school days of receiving official records.
4. If the IEP team agrees the student's needs can be met virtually, we'll schedule SDI sessions accordingly.

Accessing Gen Ed Requirements at BCA ✓

Students with an IEP will access Gen Ed courses outside of SDI settings. Parents will need to provide ongoing support to ensure success in their student's general education courses.

HELPFUL LINKS:

- [Full Informational Document](#) describing SpEd services at BCA, including an FAQ section



- [ODE Parent Rights Handout](#)





Is Special Education at BCA a Good Fit for My Student?



At Bridge Charter Academy (BCA), Special Education Services are provided virtually through the Lowell School District via Zoom. This flexible format is designed to meet students' individual needs.

Students with an active IEP must attend virtual Specially Designed Instruction (SDI) sessions regularly to stay enrolled at BCA. The number of SDI minutes is based on the student's needs, which are discussed during the IEP meeting. Students with higher academic needs may have multiple hours of Zoom sessions each week.

Can Virtual Special Education Meet My Student's Needs?

✓ Yes, if:

- ✓ The student attends virtual sessions with a Special Education teacher.
- ✓ The student has dedicated access to a tablet or computer with reliable internet (no phones).
- ✓ The student is engaged in lessons and participates actively.
- ✓ The student has a distraction-free workspace for Zoom sessions.
- ✓ The student does not require additional in-person academic or behavioral support beyond what virtual services provide.

✗ No, if:

- ✗ The student requires in-person support to succeed in a social classroom environment (e.g., 1:1 educational aide).
- ✗ The student requires in-person instruction for SDI or their general education curriculum.
- ✗ The student refuses to attend virtual sessions with a Special Education teacher.
- ✗ The student does not have dedicated access to a device or reliable internet.
- ✗ The student does not have a quiet, consistent place for virtual learning.

🤔 Maybe, if:

- The student will attend and engage in virtual sessions.
- The student has a quiet, distraction-free place for learning.
- The student has struggled emotionally or behaviorally in other settings, but the team believes that with fewer peer interactions and the comforts of home, they can manage emotions and behaviors while participating in cohort activities at a pace with their peers.