

Dear Parents,

As a department, we realize that there has been a number of changes that have happened very quickly and have completely changed many aspects of our lives. We wanted to reach out to you to let you know how we are attempting to provide special education services and support to our students with IEPs or 504 plans.

By now you should all have received some communication for online learning for your child from their teachers, providers, building principals, or program supervisors. Hopefully each of you have already completed the survey about technology and access to the internet in your home. If you are still in need of any technology, chromebooks or internet, please let the building principal or program supervisor know as soon as possible.

Our special education teachers will be working with their grade level colleagues to continue to provide your child with supports to access the curriculum. Just to reassure, and remind you, special education is a service, so this collaboration, is in itself, to provide specially designed instruction, accommodations, and access, as needed depending on students' individual needs and strengths. As you work and support your children with their learning at home, please reach out to his/her special education teachers or providers if you are finding that you need more support in how the work can be adapted for success. They are also working on a variety of tools to be in touch with both you and your children to help us all become more comfortable using technology as a means to learn.

Our related service providers (counseling, speech, OT and PT) will also be using a variety of ways to continue therapy with those students who receive these services. This may be in the form of videos or emailed activities, activities sent home in bus runs, etc.. BOCES Itinerant providers such as Audiology, Vision Services or TOD will be in touch as to how they will provide services.

We are doing our best to provide special education services to our students though it will certainly look different. The number of days or minutes will not look like it does during a day when your child is at school. We need to take confidentiality into consideration. We also have to be realistic as to how often we can expect students to sit at a computer so we are going to continue to be learning along with you. If the closure goes longer than currently reported, we will have an idea of how to plan moving forward.

We are still waiting for further guidance from the State Education Department as to what special education will look like in the event of a longer closure.

Though not ideal, CSE/504 and CPSE meetings will be held after break by phone conference. Please watch for letters to inform you of dates, times, and how the meeting will be held. We will also be

reaching out by phone to answer any questions about phone conferences or video conferences prior to your scheduled meeting. Any cancelled meetings will be rescheduled.

If you have questions or concerns please contact your child's teacher, therapist, or me at any time. We will all do our best to respond within 24-48 hours.

Thank you and take care of yourself, your family, and your neighbors.

We will ask that you provide written communication (letter or email) if you do not want services provided during this time. We need this in writing in order to meet our expectations for accountability.

Sincerely,

Cristy Bobbett

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