



NORWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES · JAMES R. SAVAGE EDUCATIONAL CENTER

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Lori Cimeno
Director Student Services

Dear Parent(s) and Guardian(s):

During this unprecedented national health emergency, I am writing to keep you updated on information regarding school closure and your student receiving special education services through the Norwood Public Schools. The District understands that school closures will have a significant impact on our students with disabilities, and that you may have questions about how the district will support your students during this time. Hopefully by now, you have heard from your student's general education and special education teachers with guidance around learning activities. We encourage you to take advantage of the suggestions provided as they will assist students' once we are able to return to school.

Over the past week, I along with my fellow special education administration colleagues throughout the Commonwealth, have been receiving guidance from Russell Johnson, Senior Associate Commissioner regarding special education practices during this closure. I will recap the major points of his guidance for you below. Hopefully, this guidance will address questions you may have.

School closure by the Governor means no required IEP services will be provided, with the exception of students in Out of District/Residential programs; so long as they remain open. Services will resume once students return to school. Students will be assessed on a case by case basis, once they return to school, to determine if temporary additional services may be needed as a result of the closure. Home/hospital tutoring will not be provided during school closure. All new referrals, evaluations, re-evaluations, IEP meetings, and all other state and federal timelines pertaining to special education will freeze during the district's closure. IEP's that have expired during the closure will continue to be implemented upon students return to school and we will work with individual families to schedule meetings to address updating student needs.

Please understand this is our current guidance from the state and federal government. This is a fluid situation which is continually changing. Should the closure be extended beyond the Governor's proclaimed three weeks, we will be revisiting the current status.

Once we return from closure, we ask for your patience and collaboration as we work to reschedule IEP team meetings and evaluations that have been missed. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact your special education liaison, Team Chairperson or myself. We all thank you for your understanding during this national health emergency.

Be well - Best Regards,

Lori Cimeno