



Granby Public Schools

Department of Pupil Services

Carol Hepworth, Director of Pupil Services

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March 16, 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian/Caregiver,

As you are aware, the Governor has mandated all Massachusetts schools closed until April 7th, 2020, in response to concerns given the unprecedented situation created by the spread of COVID-19 (Coronavirus). These are extraordinary times, and the information and guidance from local, state, and federal authorities have resulted in decisions and actions that need to adapt to the quickly changing environment.

At this time, the following district guidelines are in effect regarding Special Education.

New Referrals/Initial Eligibility/ Re-Evaluation in Process:

Granby Public Schools, along with other schools in the commonwealth, will be working with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education on how we are addressing timelines for all students in a referral cycle or amid re-evaluation during this school closure. Once I hear from the Department, I will let you know how this will impact the process going forward.

IEP Meetings/Timelines

Granby Public Schools, along with other schools in the commonwealth, will be attempting to hold (annual/review) IEP meetings virtually through, for example, ZOOM, a meeting APP. If your child's IEP expires during the school closure and you would like us to hold the meeting virtually, please reach out to me via email at: chepworth@granbyschoolsma.net

Home/Hospital Tutoring:

Home and Hospital Tutoring occurs outside of the school buildings. For students currently on approved home or hospital tutoring, the assigned tutor will contact the family to ensure the appropriate continuity of educational opportunities.

OOD Placements:

For students in Out-of-District day programs, the Out-of-District schools notified the Granby Public Schools that they would be providing educational opportunities during this closing. Please reach out to your assigned schools for further information.

Every Student Every Classroom Every Day

Vision In the Granby Public Schools, we focus on the whole child, to develop a community that empowers every student to become civically engaged, service-minded, responsible, intellectually curious and prepared individuals engaged in our culturally diverse and global community. We encourage respectful and constructive exchange of feedback within and outside our schools as a pathway to continuous improvement, leading to fearless learning.

Mission We believe that relationships matter. We believe in the promise of every child, in the purpose every child brings to learning, and in the passion every child possesses. We believe that learning is about the growth of all aspects of the child - social, emotional, physical, and intellectual.

The Granby Public Schools strives to provide a safe, respectful, and supportive learning environment in which all students can thrive and succeed in its schools. The Granby Public Schools prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, gender identity, religion, disability, national origin, sexual orientation, or homelessness and ensures that all students have equal rights of access and equal enjoyment of the opportunities, advantages, privileges, and courses of study.

365 Day Residential Placements:

For students in 365-day residential placements, the Granby Public Schools will follow the attendance recommendations of the individual school or facility. If the 365-day residential school decides to close, they will be notifying families. Please reach out to your assigned schools for further information.

Counseling

During this school closure, Counselors will be reaching out to families to offer support to your child and provide email contact information.

Teachers/Related Service Providers

During this school closure, Teachers and Related Service Providers will be providing Blizzard Bag learning opportunities. Teachers and Related Service Providers will be checking in with families via email or phone.

In Closing, The District Administrative Team is in constant communication with our liaisons at both the state and federal level. We will keep you informed of any updates as we receive them.

If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out by email during this school closure.

Take good care,

Carol Hepworth
Director of Pupil Services
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