



Royal Independent School District

Department of Special Education
PO Box 489 * Pattison, TX 77446

Date: March 22, 2020

RE: Regarding School District Closure to Prevent/Contain the Spread of COVID-19 Coronavirus

Dear Parents and/or Guardians,

This letter is coming from the Royal Independent School District Special Education Department concerning the suspension of regular school services as of March 16, 2020. The suspension will remain in effect until it is determined that school can safely resume.

The District determined that it is necessary to suspend regular school services to prevent or contain the spread of the COVID-19 Coronavirus. This decision was based on consultation and or recommendations from agencies such as the Center for Disease Control ("CDC"), Texas Department of Education ("TEA"), Education Services Center 4 (ESC 4), and local government and health agencies.

During the suspension of regular school services, the District will implement distance learning strategies to provide educational services to students. As a result, your student's special education program will be provided through a distance learning model. Recommendations from federal and state agencies to quarantine may affect the District's ability to provide some direct services to your child during this time. Further, it may be impossible to replicate some provisions of the IEP in the distance learning environment such as related services, small group instruction, or inclusion services. Within some of the distance learning platforms there are areas where accommodations and modifications can be granted based on the individual needs of the student. The Special Education Department will make every effort to employ equal access to our special education students. Some students with greater needs will receive packets which will contain school work and well as some OT/PT and speech activities to work on at home during school closure. We will also make every effort to reach out to every special education student/parent on a weekly basis to determine and offer additional support on assignments and work sent home. The district will continue to hold ARDs via the Zoom platform.

Normal special education supports and services identified in your student's IEP will resume when the school district resumes regular school services. At that time, your child's ARD committee will contact you to discuss whether an ARD meeting is appropriate and if any compensatory service is necessary. Right now we are working with a moving target. We are receiving feedback and guidance from TEA, CDC, ESC4, and local government and health agencies on a daily basis. The health, safety, and welfare of our students, staff, and community are always a priority to the Royal ISD Special Education Department.

Finally, please be advised that parents of a child with a disability have protection under federal law and state law, and procedural safeguards set forth in Title 34 CFR Section 300. If you need a copy of the District's procedural safeguards and/or if you have any questions concerning this letter please feel free to reach out to the District's Special Education Department at tgage@royal-isd.net. Thank you for your patience during this national emergency.

Sincerely,

Tonya Gage Woods

Director of Special Education