

LEBANON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Department of Pupil Services

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

Re:COVID-19 School Closure

I hope this letter finds all the members of your family healthy and beginning to adjust to the school closure. These are certainly uncharted times for all of us, and members of the Department of Pupil Services are putting forth our best efforts in staying connected to all of our families.

Due to the COVID-19 school closure, it is important to understand that your child's IEP is not being implemented, however, the district is providing continued educational opportunities using a variety of instructional methods. By now, your child's case manager and/or related services therapist(s) have been in touch with you regarding these opportunities and remote teaching and learning. In order to continue providing your child with educational opportunities, members of the department will continue to engage in blended distance learning using two models: 1) *Synchronous* - Students and teachers/therapists are working together and interacting in a digital space concurrently and 2) *Asynchronous* - Teachers/therapists post instructional learning materials online and students engage in the work at their own pace within a given timeframe. Included in this correspondence is a Consent for Virtual Teaching & Learning Opt Out notice, which provides you with additional information.

As indicated in correspondence from Superintendent Angeli, office staff in all buildings are working remotely. Due to this, I would ask at this time, special education documents be sent electronically. Your child's case manager is in the process of contacting you to obtain your permission, if it is not already on file. If you have already provided the district permission for electronic records then you will not be contacted.

In regard to PPTs, the Bureau of Special Education has advised the district to hold PPTs for Annual, Triennial, and Referral for Special Education Services.. PPTs will be held remotely using Google Meet. Our plan is to develop IEPs with implementation dates for the start of the 2020-2021 school year. Jennifer Thompson, Administrative Assistant for the Department of Pupil Services, will continue to coordinate all PPTs. If you do not feel comfortable using Google Meet for PPTs, you can defer holding the meeting and we will process an IEP amendment that will extend the IEP until October 2020 and we will hold a PPT once school is open.

On behalf of the department, I want to thank all of you for your cooperation and patience as we move forward one day at a time in providing your child(ren) with continued educational opportunities during the COVID-19 school closure. Please know that our priority continues to be the health and safety of everyone in our school community. Stay Well!

Sincerely,

Cheryl J. Biekert

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Director of Pupil Services

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