



**BEACON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES**

10 Education Drive
Beacon, NY 12508
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DR. MATTHEW LANDAHL
Superintendent of Schools

MRS. DAWN CONDELLO
Director of Pupil Personnel Services

March 30, 2020

Dear Families:

In an effort to aggressively slow the spread of COVID-19, New York State's Governor, Andrew Cuomo, has ordered the closure of all schools in the state of New York for a minimum of two weeks, ending April 15, 2020. In addition, there is an indication that schools may be ordered to remain closed for a longer period in an effort to continue social distancing and slow the rate at which this virus spreads.

We appreciate the concerns of parents and students, especially those who depend on the delivery of special education instruction, accommodations, supports, and related services. This letter contains important information about our plan for implementing special education instruction, providing related services and facilitating Section 504 team, Committee on Pre-School Special Education (CPSE) and Committee on Special Education (CSE) meetings during the extended closures. Administration and staff have been working diligently to develop plans to maintain the consistency of special education services. We are committed to doing our best to address your child's needs remotely, but it is possible that not all typical school-based instruction and special education supports can be feasibly implemented through a distance learning model during the present health crisis. Your patience and understanding are greatly appreciated as we work through the logistics of this challenging time together.

Please closely review the information provided below and reach out to us as explained regarding any concerns you have relating to the implementation of your child's special education services and/or accommodations in the weeks ahead. We are here to support you and your children during this challenging time. Thank you for your patience and understanding in working with us as our school community responds to COVID-19.

Sincerely,

Dawn Condello

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Director of Pupil Personnel Services



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Your child will be receiving the following special education supports and services effective April 1st, 2020:

The District will be using its best efforts to provide students the free appropriate public education (FAPE) in accordance with your child's Section 504 plan, IEP or IESP during the period of school closing.

Special education and related service providers will be in touch with you to discuss a schedule for service delivery. Related services that are usually provided in a group may have to be provided individually or in a smaller group size, which may result in a reduction in the contact time between the provider and the child as indicated on your child's Section 504 plan, IEP or IESP. Related services may be provided directly with the provider on the telephone, by virtual meeting or using computer-based instruction, or instruction using written materials, assistive or other technology. Our related service staff will discuss home activities and maintain a communication log should you have specific questions.

The CSE will review how the delivery of special education and related services to your child was impacted by this school closure, whether substantial regression has or is likely to have occurred and whether the provision of compensatory education is appropriate. Decisions relating to compensatory education will be made on a case by case basis, in light of the unique needs of each child, taking into account the duration of the disruption, missed special education supports and services and the impact of these factors on each student's achievement.

The District is committed to providing parents with a meaningful opportunity to communicate their concerns and participate in the on-going implementation and development of their children's Section 504 plans, IEPs or IESPs. The District understands that parents may have questions or concerns about their child's special education program. The District encourages parents who have concerns about the special education supports being provided during this period of distance learning to contact Dawn Condello. Additionally, CPSE or CSE meetings can be scheduled, upon request, via telephone or video conference. If you would like to schedule a CPSE or CSE meeting via telephone or video conference, please contact Dawn Condello at the following phone number 845-838-6900 ex 2015 or by email at the following email address condello.d@beaconk12.org to arrange for a program review.

If your son or daughter has been recommended for an evaluation that requires a face-to-face assessment or observation, the evaluation will be delayed until school reopens. Evaluations and re-evaluations that do not require face-to-face assessments or observations may take place while schools are closed, so long as a student's parent or legal guardian consents to the re-evaluation or evaluation.