



West Contra Costa Unified School District

Special Education Department

2465 Dolan Way, San Pablo, CA 94806

Phone: 510-307-4630 **Fax:** 510-724-8829

Nick Berger, SELPA Director

POSTED TO DISTRICT WEBSITE

March 27, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians and Adult Students:

This letter is to inform you of the West Contra Costa Unified School District's Plan to continue to provide special education and related services to eligible students to the greatest extent feasible during the current COVID-19 school closure. IEP meetings will not be held to negotiate FAPE during school closure.

As you know, on March 13, 2020, the District determined that it was necessary to close its schools to prevent/contain the spread of COVID-19. This decision was made based on information from federal, state and local agencies and Governor Newsom's March 4, 2020 proclamation of the existence of a State of Emergency in the State of California. Since that time more restrictions were imposed. On March 16, 2020, Contra Costa County Public Health Department ordered residents to "shelter in place" and on March 19, 2020 Governor Newsom ordered all California residents to "stay at home" due to the COVID-19 threat. The health and safety of our students, families, and staff is our highest priority as has guided the District's decisions during this crisis.

Beginning April 13, 2020 and continuing through the time of the school closure (except for school breaks), the District will provide Distance Learning supports and activities to all students including students with disabilities, as well as work packets. The services that will be provided may not be the exact duration and frequency of services outlined in your child's IEP. Your child will receive the special education and related services identified in their IEP, to the greatest extent feasible, delivered in an alternative manner.

Plans for serving students with IEPs will be communicated directly to you through your child's Case Manager. Case Managers will ensure that Distance Learning modalities and work packets are aligned with the students' IEP goals and appropriate instructional accommodations are provided. They may provide scheduled consultation to parents on supporting instruction and educational activities expected to be completed at home.

In addition, the following Related Special Education Services will be provided:

- Support helplines
- Video and online learning
- Telephone check-ins

Additional related services may be provided in some circumstances. All service providers will develop work completion logs, services and communication logs to track student progress during the implementation of Distance Learning.

With your consent, when feasible, IEP meetings may be held via teleconference at this time. We are expecting additional guidance regarding timelines related to IEP meetings over the next several weeks and will keep you updated as information is released.

Regarding special education evaluations, only tests that can be administered remotely can continue at this time. This excludes the majority of evaluations administered as part of special education evaluations. Further, the timelines for completion of psychoeducational evaluations have been suspended.

In making its determination regarding special education, related services, IEP meetings and evaluations, the District reviewed and considered the following:

Guidance from the CDC and DPH,
Guidance from the CDE,
Guidance from US Department of Education, and
All other relevant information available to the District

We will apprise you with any changes in guidance that the District receives on the provision of special education and related services for students with disabilities.

Finally, please be advised that the parents of a child with disability have protection under the federal rights and procedural safeguards set forth in 34 CFR Part 300. Attached you will find a copy of those parental rights and procedural safeguards.

The sources which you may contact to obtain assistance in understanding the provisions of the enclosed procedural safeguards are:

West Contra Costa Unified School District
Special Education Department
2465 Dolan Way
San Pablo, CA 94806
(510) 307-4630
and
California Department of Education
Special Education Division
1430 N Street, Suite 2401
Sacramento, CA 95814

Please also do not hesitate reach out to me at (510) 309-3918.

Sincerely,

Nick Berger
SELPA Director

Encl: Parental Rights and Procedural Safeguards