



Methuen Public Schools

Central Administration
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Gina Bozek
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April 3, 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian/Caregiver,

Thank you for your continued patience as we work through the logistics of this ever-evolving situation surrounding COVID-19. Bear the following in mind related to the following topics:

- This will continue to be an ever-evolving process as this health crisis changes daily.
- Supports and services will be based on what is working and what is not working and all team members will need to have some flexibility. Staff are navigating similar journeys as you may be as you work remotely while caring for your own family.
- As the District rolls out your child's learning plan, the supports and services may be subject to change with little or no notice due to circumstances beyond the District's control and staff availability.
- We understand this is especially hard for many of our students that rely so much on routine. We believe the end goal for everyone at this point is to find a steady structure and understanding of expectations that make sense for each child and family individually.

Special Education Services: During the school closure, your child is entitled to receive accommodations and services set forth on his/her IEP consistent with the need to protect the health and safety of students with disabilities, teachers, and staff. Governor Baker's order prevents in-person instruction in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19. How Methuen Public Schools provides special education to your child will look different during this unprecedented period of national and state public health emergency. We will be making every effort to use creative strategies to provide special education instruction and services to the extent feasible. During the period of closure, as you are aware the District has already provided remote learning plans. In the midst of this crisis, all of our staff, despite working remotely and not having access to classroom materials, are in the process of moving forward with the provision of special education services for individual students. You should expect to receive notice of the services your child will receive by April 13, 2020, and we have established a goal of being able to implement at least some of those services beginning on April 13, 2020. Your child's team will continue to build on the services as the school closure progresses and you will receive weekly learning plans accordingly.

Team Meetings: The District will move forward in engaging in Team meetings. Special Education Administrators will be reaching out to families during the week of April 6 to discuss scheduling initial and re-evaluation meetings for those students in which assessments and reports have been completed. Any initial and re-evaluations that were in process and assessments that

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still need to be completed will be delayed until school resumes given Governor Baker's order that prevents in-person contact. SEAs will also be contacting families to schedule meetings to review outside evaluations. Starting the week of April 13, families will be contacted to schedule annual review meetings.

Preschool Screenings: As Governor Baker's order prevents in-person contact, preschool screenings will be delayed until school resumes. Additional information will be forthcoming.

We appreciate your communication with us and your understanding and patience during this challenging time. Your feedback is very helpful as we continue to roll out learning plans for students. While this is undoubtedly a challenge for all of us, I view this as a time for us to work together as a community to confront these challenges. Your child's education is critically important to us. Please know that we are working diligently to address your concerns during these unprecedented times. I will continue to provide updated information as it becomes available. Please stay safe and healthy.

Sincerely,

Gina R. Bozek, M.Ed, CAGS
Director of Student Services

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