

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope you and your family are doing well during this unprecedented time. As you are all aware, the COVID-19 restrictions implemented by Governor Wolf have placed school districts in the extraordinary situation of school closures of an uncertain duration. Over the past week, we have been waiting on additional guidance and clarification from our state and federal leaders, especially as to how the closures affect students who have an Individualized Education Program (IEP).

Based on guidance provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE), we are still planning to hold IEP and other educational meetings during the closure. As we are unable to meet in person, you will be emailed a copy of the IEP draft as well as a Zoom invitation so you can participate in the meeting virtually. This can be done through a computer or phone, and you can select the option you are most comfortable with. We will continue to schedule meetings in this format throughout the closure to maintain compliance with special education timelines.

In addition, we know that PDE has suggested that educational services continue in various ways, including remote learning. Students with disabilities will also have access to instructional materials, including online and if needed, paper materials.

We realize that for some students with disabilities, accessing services provided online may be challenging, so the district will work closely with those families to identify supports to facilitate their learning via this format. Our Special Education Department has been working collaboratively with District Leadership to establish guidelines for implementing IEPs in a remote learning situation. To accomplish this case managers will focus on providing instruction on the goals/objectives outlined in the student's IEPs and provide core content instruction when students are pulled from the general education setting. Related services, including occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech-language therapy, teacher of the hearing impaired and teacher of the visually impaired will continue to provide support using remote means. Lastly, all modifications/accommodations are to be implemented across all content to the best of our ability.

When I started two years ago, one of the first things I quickly learned about Hampton is that you are a close community, where everyone helps and cares for their neighbors; I know the students, staff, parents, and community members will work together to ensure daily learning continues to take place. Our staff will be in contact to provide opportunities to collaborate with each other and families about ways in which we can best meet the needs of our students in this difficult situation.

Thank you for your patience during this challenging time. As additional information becomes available, we will keep you updated. If you have any concerns about your ability to access online programming or virtual services, please contact your child's case manager to discuss resources and/or alternatives for the implementation of your child's program. If you have any questions after speaking with the special education staff, please feel free to contact me at 412-492-6306 or via email at sharon.smith@ht-sd.org.

Kind Regards,

Sharon Smith
Special Education/Transition Coordinator