



94 North Elm Street
Suite 201
Westfield, MA 01085
Tel: (413) 572-6556
Fax: (413) 564-0300

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April 2020

Dear Families of Special Education Students,

We find ourselves in unprecedented times that have brought to us a great deal of uncertainty and, in many cases, anxiety. While we struggle through this period of time together, please know that our district has our families, staff members, stakeholders and wider community, in our hearts and minds.

As we shift from providing remote enrichment activities to providing remote instruction that will maintain mastered skills through reviewing of previously presented materials to your children, we are continually developing and improving our systems for the provision of remote services. There are a great deal of hurdles such as remote access, connectivity, and device acquisition to overcome. However the primary and overarching hurdle is the safety and well-being of staff members, families, and student which must continue to be our top priority as we move forward over the next few weeks.

While districts must continue to provide a free, appropriate public education (FAPE), we must always protect the health and safety of students, educators, and service providers. To that end, services can be provided but will be provided differently than when school was in session. The DESE is continuing to provide updates via their website at: <http://www.doe.mass.edu/sped/covid19/html>. I encourage you to check this website at least 2-3 times per week for the latest information.

Districts are required to provide notice to families regarding services that will be provided. This letter, while bringing you updated information regarding the COVID19 pandemic and its effect on education, will serve as notice that the district will continue to reach out to you in order to provide remote education that will maintain your child's skills.

Please be safe, be well, and be healthy. All the very best –

Martha von Mering, Ph.D.

Administrator of Special Education & Related Services