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March 24, 2020

Dear Special Education Community:

I hope you and your family are safe and managing the current health crisis as well as possible.

The current school closure timeline is still April 6, 2020; we know there is a good possibility this will last longer. We are working diligently to be prepared for changing our practices in order to offer more learning opportunities for students during this closure.

The early guidance from the state confirmed that while schools were closed due to this public health emergency, we were not required to provide IEP services and there would be no expectation for compensatory services upon our return. More recent guidance, given the longer period schools will be closed, is that schools are required to provide education to all students although it is understood that the delivery of services outlined on IEPs will look different and the times on the grids may not be realistic for families or teachers. We are committed to providing as much service as we can to our students and families.

There are many things we can provide and do during this time for those of you that are interested. We realize that families have different needs and abilities to participate in education at this time and we can be flexible with that.

Here are some of the things the Special Education Department will be looking to do in the coming weeks:

- Providing options for virtual IEP meetings
- Virtual therapy sessions
- Modifications to work that teachers may provide
- Virtual small group reading instruction
- Login access for various online tutorial programs
- Virtual access to teacher support

COVID-19 SpEd Parent/Guardian

March 24, 2020

Page Two

We understand the fear of potential regression in your child's skills. A break such as this will inevitably result in some regression for all learners. Once students return to school, teams will review the individual nature of your child's IEP services and assess any additional services she/he may need to help reduce the impact of this break in education.

A survey went out recently to ascertain who needs devices to access virtual instruction. Please make sure you complete that survey. If virtual instruction is not going to work, we can work on other avenues for you. Feel free to reach out to me if you have specific and unique needs. If you have not heard from your student's therapist or special education teacher yet, you should hear from someone soon.

The Carver Public School District will continue to provide updates as we receive guidance from the Massachusetts Department of Education as well as the US Department of Education concerning this unprecedented closing and the opportunities for ongoing learning experiences.

Sincerely,
CARVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Karen Teichert

Karen Teichert
Director of Special Education

KT/lmd