



LOUDOUN COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

DEPARTMENT OF PUPIL SERVICES

Office of Special Education
Administration Building
21000 Education Court, 4th Floor
Ashburn, VA 20148
Telephone: 571-252-1011
FAX: 571-252-1244

April 8, 2020

Dear Loudoun County Public Schools Special Education Families,

On behalf of Loudoun County Public Schools (LCPS), the Office of Special Education would like to thank you for your support during these unprecedented times. We sincerely thank our SEAC partners for offering feedback and support on behalf of our families and community. The purpose of this communication is to provide an update to the community on how LCPS will continue to support students with disabilities while schools are closed for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year during the COVID-19 pandemic. We value and appreciate the opportunity to work with you to forge new horizons for instruction through distance learning during the school closure. LCPS assures you that our focus is to provide all students with meaningful learning experiences to the extent possible to support the continuity of learning.

While we greatly miss our students, our first priority is for the health, safety and well-being of all students, staff and families. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which requires people to stay at home, and due to the Governor's decision to close all schools through the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year, LCPS cannot implement student Individualized Education Programs (IEP) as the program is functionally unavailable in a distance learning environment. Specifically, the special education instruction and supports students receive at school, in an in-person classroom setting are not easily replaced or replicated in a distance or online learning format.

Recognizing that some services will be functionally unavailable within a distance learning platform, LCPS remains committed to providing students with disabilities appropriate and reasonable special education supports through consultation, accommodations, collaborative distance models including web-based learning and printed learning guides. The Office for Special Education staff continue to support school-based teams and families during this time of school closure. Special education teachers and related service providers continue to provide instruction and work collaboratively with co-teachers and other members of the school team to develop differentiated strategies and accommodations appropriate for accessing distance learning. In addition, LCPS is considering all practical steps necessary to support students to the extent possible given this unprecedented situation.

On March 16th, teachers provided online and offline resources with embedded accessibility features to provide access in digital and print formats ([LCPS Continuity of Education, Special Education Learning Resources](#)) to support families in engaging their students in learning activities. We are continuously updating enrichment resources provided through the Continuity of Learning portal on the LCPS website. With this resource, parents can find

guidance for accessibility, adapted curriculum, augmentative/alternative Communication (AAC), support for the blind and visually impaired as well as adapted PE and deaf and hard of hearing resources. Additionally, there are resources for early childhood learning, gross fine motor development, specialized instruction and transition.

Additionally, for families that were not able to access the online resources, learning guides continue to be available at the meal delivery sites. For students in grades 3-12 and post graduates who continue to receive special education services, resources for Related Services, Adapted Curriculum and Social Stories (related to the COVID-19 crisis) will be available online and at the meal delivery sites after April 22nd. These resources will continue to be disseminated bi-weekly for the remainder of the school year. For students Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE)-2nd grade, Learning Guides will be mailed to the following groups of students and available after April 20th: ESCE and K-2 resources for students who access Adapted Curriculum. Thereafter, students who receive special education services will receive packets that will be mailed to all ECSE and K-2 adapted students in the division every 2 weeks.

LCPS is offering individualized Temporary Distance Learning Plans to support students with disabilities during the school closure and support student participation in LCPS' Continuity of Education Plan. Special education teachers/case managers and/or related service providers will be in contact with you next week to share the Temporary Distance Learning Plan that is proposed for the student. Although a Temporary Distance Learning Plan cannot replace an Individualized Education Program (IEP) in a traditional school setting, it will identify the goal(s), accommodations and services that can be reasonably provided to the extent possible during this time of school closure. The student's individualized Temporary Distance Learning Plan will cover the time period of April 15, 2020 to the end of the 2019-2020 school year. Once school resumes and students are permitted to attend school, LCPS will return to providing special education and related services in accordance with each student's last agreed-upon IEP.

If you have any questions regarding the educational resources or need assistance, please contact the special education teacher, special education case manager, special education designee, school administrator or the Special Education Supervisor assigned to your school. We thank you for your attention to this message. We certainly hope that you and your family remain safe and healthy during this time. We look forward to being reunited with our students soon!

Sincerely,

The Office of Special Education Team