

August 6th, 2020

Dear Parents and Community Members,

We hope that you are enjoying the last few weeks of summer vacation prior to the start of the 20-21 school year. This summer has certainly been different for many and the staff at Sequoia Union High School District has been very busy planning for the return to school.

As you may be aware the SUHSD School Board approved the decision to reopen school with a full distance learning model for the first quarter of the 20-21 school year. Below some Q and A that may help answer some of your most pressing questions:

**How will I find out about my student's educational plan during distance learning?**

Case Managers return the week of August 10, 2020 and you should receive communication from them regarding your student's distance learning plan. They will contact you to communicate the plan for providing Specialized Academic Instruction pursuant to your child's IEP. Case Managers will ensure that any Distance Learning is aligned with your child's IEP, and that any appropriate accommodations are provided. Learning modalities may include educational packets, online educational programs, teleconferencing, and tele-therapy. If necessary, Case Managers may also provide scheduled consultation (virtually) to parents on supporting instruction and educational activities at home.

**Does the Distance Learning Plan change the District's offer on the IEP?**

The Distance Learning Plan (DLP) is an emergency measure utilized under the COVID-19 to address student educational needs under these pandemic circumstances. Your child's DLP is based on the IEP offer of services. However, because it is delivered in a remote fashion, it cannot be exactly the same as the offer on the IEP. Should the pandemic restrictions be lifted by San Mateo County, and San Mateo County be released from the state watchlist, your child's educational services will resume as described in the IEP document.

**Will my student still receive services other than the instruction from their teacher?**

Depending on the needs of your child and the types of services set forth in their IEP, the following related services may also be provided:

- Speech and Language Services: educational packets, tele-therapy, phone consultations with parents
- Physical Therapy Services: physical education packets and resources, phone consultation with parents on home exercise programs, virtual conferencing with students
- Behavioral Support: reward system, social stories, virtual meetings, phone consultation with parents
- Adapted Physical Education: physical education packets developed in collaboration with general education PE teachers; Virtual lesson delivery
- Educationally-Related Mental Health Services: Mental Health therapists will continue working and have developed a plan to support students through teletherapy.

Please be advised that all service providers will be tracking your child's progress throughout the duration of Distance Learning by keeping work completion logs, services logs, and communication logs. The District's Special Education department can continue to hold IEP meetings during distance learning via teleconferencing through google hangouts or zoom, with parental consent. The District will continue to communicate with you regarding timelines for schools to be moved to in person instruction.

**What if my student requires specialized equipment based on their IEP?**

If your student uses an AAC device, or other adapted equipment, and you would like to use it at home during distance learning, the District asks that you sign and return the Equipment Check-Out Agreement. If you do not have an Agreement already, or would like another one, please contact your Case Manager to obtain the agreement. Once we receive your acknowledgement, we will arrange to access the equipment for your student at the school and it will be delivered to your home.

**What if my student attends a program outside the district comprehensive sites?**

If your student attends a Non-Public School or a program through the SMCOE, you should have received educational information about your student's educational program at home. All of these providers have sent their learning plans to our Special Education Department and if you have any questions or need anything, please contact us.

**What is happening in terms of initial and triennial assessments for services?**

Once staff return on 8/17/2020, we will be resuming assessments by doing records reviews, conducting virtual evaluations, and by doing in person testing if it can be conducted in a safe manner for students and staff. The type of testing will be determined on an individual basis. Staff will contact you regarding the plan to assess.

**What do I need to do to request records?**

Requests for records, with the accompanying timeline of 5 business days to produce the records, will be paused, as staff is not available to retrieve records. Any records requests received during school closures will be responded to when the District returns to regular operations.

Again, we want to reassure you that the District is ready, willing and able to continue the assessments and provision of services agreed upon by the IEP teams when regular school operations resume. The District will keep our families updated with any changes in guidance that it receives with respect to the provision of Special Education and related services for students with disabilities.

For more general questions regarding distance learning please see the District's reopening plan posted on the main website:

<https://www.seq.org/DEPARTMENTS/Educational-Services/Distance-Learning-/Fall-2020-Reopening-Schools-Plan/index.html>

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