



Warren County Public Schools

210 North Commerce Avenue
Front Royal, Virginia 22630-4419
Phone (540) 635-2171,
Fax (540) 636-4195
www.wcps.k12.va.us

OFFICE OF THE
SUPERINTENDENT

April 14, 2020

Dear Parents,

As all of you are aware, on March 23, 2020, Governor Northam ordered all of the public and private K-12 schools in Virginia to remain closed for the remainder of the academic year. This was done as a measure to preserve the health and well-being of all of our citizens. In addition to this order, on March 30, 2020, all Virginians were ordered to stay home except for a few identified groups. Due to this emergency closure in these uncertain times, it is currently unfeasible and unsafe for school staff to provide special education services in the same manner that was done prior to this pandemic. The special education instructional supports, services, and placement within your child's last agreed upon IEP are functionally unavailable while the school division is closed during the state and national emergencies created by the COVID-19 pandemic.

That being said, we understand the desire of educators and parents of students with disabilities to continue to access the continuity of learning opportunities being provided. WCPS is working tirelessly and considering all practical steps necessary to appropriately support our students during this unprecedented situation.

WCPS is committed to supporting and providing students who have IEPs with educational opportunities, which may include, as appropriate for your individual child: online activities, virtual options, consultation, accommodations and modifications, and collaboration with educators, parents and case managers. As we navigate these uncertain times, WCPS staff will work to make the continuity of learning activities meaningful and engaging to our students with disabilities while we collectively work to protect the health and safety of all individuals involved in the educational programming.

By this time, or in the immediate future, your child's case manager will have contacted each student and/or family and has established a link to support each student. If you have not been contacted, please reach out to the Special Services office from 8:00 am - 4:00 pm and I will assist you with this linkage. WCPS would like to update your child's current IEP to designate the services and accommodations that your child will receive during the period of school closure. This amendment will be proposed without a meeting in order to protect the health and safety of all participants. This proposed IEP amendment is for use during the period of school closure, is temporary in nature, and is not "stay-put," meaning that your child's previous IEP will be reinstated upon the reopening of your child's school. If you choose not to sign the amendment and want to request an IEP team meeting to discuss the contents of the proposed IEP amendment, then please contact your child's case manager.

Please be safe and take care of each other through this time of crisis. If you need anything, please do not hesitate to call me at 540-635-2725.

Sincerely,

Michael E. Hirsch, Ed.S., Director of Special Services