

From: "Hitch, Shannon" <shhitch@lwsd.org>
Date: March 13, 2020 at 11:22:15 AM PDT
To: "Hitch, Shannon" <shhitch@lwsd.org>
Subject: Important Updates re: Special Education

Compliance Guidelines:

- If schools are closed and not delivering educational services, then the school district is not required to provide services for students eligible for special education during that same period of time. Fundamentally, we must individualize and provide supports for special education students only within the context of what is being offered by general education. This means that if general education teachers are providing enrichment activities, special education teachers need to provide the same. We are not providing home-based services or NPA programming at this time as we are not delivering any special education services.
- We will need to consider the impact of the days missed on student's progress and performance and determine the need for ESY or compensatory services once school resumes. This will be determined on a case-by-case basis.
- We are not required to maintain initial referral, evaluation or IEP timelines as these timelines are determined by "school days". We are required to attempt to maintain triennial re-evaluation and annual IEP timelines as these timelines are determined by "calendar days". Both IEPs and re-evaluations can be completed through file review and remote parent participation. If for some reason they cannot be completed, we need to document our attempts and reasons why.

These guidelines may change with further information from OSPI or OSEP. We will provide you with additional guidance regarding compliance, timelines, etc. as soon as we have that information. We have been in close contact with OSPI as we seek understanding and clarification on the related and complex issues. We are currently working on messaging for families and staff but understand that these messages must be vetted by our attorney as well as district leadership so it may take some time. At this time, you may postpone any IEP meetings scheduled for next week as we develop clear communication for how we will address compliance issues. In the meantime, please do continue to use time to work with colleagues in your school on planning for learning resources that can be made available for students and families. To support you with these efforts, our amazing team of TOSAs, led by Taylor Phu in assistive technology have been working around the clock for the past week to

develop ideas and resources for families. These resources will be made available on the district webpage soon. The resources include suggestions and ideas of potential enrichment opportunities for your students.

I so appreciate your flexibility as we continue to respond to these latest updates. I know many of you have questions and concerns as we make the adjustments and we will do our very best to support you during this time. **To help us respond effectively, I am asking for all special education questions to be emailed to: specialservices@lwsd.org** This will allow us to better provide timely answers. Answers will come from ADs and myself. I would ask for your patience and grace as we are dealing with a high volume of questions and concerns.

Thank you for your efforts to support students and families, especially now.

Regards,

Shannon

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