



David Douglas School District

Learn · Grow · Thrive

Ken Richardson, *Superintendent* | 11300 NE Halsey Street, Portland, Oregon 97220 | Phone (503) 252-2900

April 14, 2020

Dear Families of Students Served by Special Education,

In this time that is truly unprecedented, we hope you and your family are well. We understand that you may be experiencing a range of emotions and dealing with many changes in schedules, resources, and circumstances. Please know that we care deeply about you and your child, and we very much miss being present with your children in the school building.

Since our schools first closed, we have been working very closely with the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) on how to meet with needs of students who experience a disability within a Distance Learning Model. The guidance has changed over the past few weeks, so thank you for your patience as we navigate the information. One thing that has been consistent and clearly communicated, the state implores us to be creative and harness new ways of relating, teaching, and learning.

The general education context has changed in this new model of Distance Learning for All. The suggested teacher-led instructional hours directed by the Oregon Department of Education are greatly reduced from our previous 6+hour days. **Specially designed instruction may look significantly different in this new context.** Yet we remain committed to working to ensure access to general education for your child (as indicated on their IEP), and helping your child make progress toward their IEP goals as much as possible.

Students in General Education with Special Education Support- In this new context of Distance Learning for All, Special Education services will, to the extent practical, focus on delivering services to support progress towards IEP goals, in conjunction with the general education curriculum. Our Special Education providers will collaborate with general education teachers to facilitate and develop specially designed instruction embedded in the general education learning activities as much as possible, using the lens of Universal Design for Learning (UDL). This will be supplemented with activities, both virtually and in packet form, that support your child's individual goals and objectives and may include services from other providers, as indicated on your child's IEP.

Students in specialized classrooms- Your special education teacher/case manager will be the person delivering the curriculum, supplemental activities and coordinating any additional services your child may receive, such as Speech and Language Services.

For the majority of students with disabilities, the IEP can be implemented without the need for significant amendments, but with consideration of the Distance Learning setting and parent input. In the coming weeks, special education case managers will be connecting with all families of students in special education regarding individualized needs and services within the Distance Learning model.

Visit our website: www.ddouglas.k12.or.us Email: David_Douglas@ddsd40.org

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IEP Meetings

We are aware that some scheduled IEP meetings were missed during the period of school closure. As we move into Distance Learning, case managers will be reaching out to reschedule those meetings as soon as possible. These meetings will be held virtually, by Google Meet video conferencing or by phone. We will still work to have a written draft to you to review prior to the meeting to facilitate your input and collaboration in the development of this plan. We thank you in advance for your patience as we learn to meet together in these new ways.

Our teachers and related services providers are working hard to find new ways to support your child's learning. We appreciate your partnership and patience as we work to provide appropriate and engaging education for your child at this time.

Quick Summary:

- ODE believes almost all IEPs can be implemented in a Distance Learning context without amending or revising the IEP, but by being innovative in implementation and having strong partnerships between school and home
- We will implement special education using lessons planned with a UDL lens as much as possible with supplemental activities and instruction as necessary
- Students who are in specialize classrooms will receive their instruction from their Special Education Teacher just like when typical school is in session
- We will be reaching out to reschedule missed meetings as soon as possible, and these will all be held virtually
- If you have questions or concerns about how your child's IEP will be implemented, please reach out to your child's casemanager to partner together. If necessary, you can request a formal IEP team meeting.

Parent Resources:

- [Columbia Regional Program- Parent resources are learning at home](#)
- [ODE-Parent Guide-Learning at Home](#)
- [ODE- Guide on Supporting Mental and Emotional Well Being at Home](#)
- [ODE-Guide on Supporting Students with Complex Needs](#)
- [FACT Oregon- Parent Resource, COVID 19](#)

Wishing you health and wellness,

Mary Pearson
Director of Student Services
503-261-8207

