

## Student Services Communication

September 11, 2020

Hello Caregivers,

By now I hope you have received our Superintendent's call noting that our negotiations have reached agreements on issues that are critical to reopening. Our department has been actively participating in these meetings and planning to ensure we can both meet the needs of our students and keep our educators and students safe. This week we received confirmation from the many student services educators who are able to work in person, and we now have guidelines for spaces where students can access services in a safe environment if needed. Those of our faculty and staff who will be working in person have been participating in PPE training. We have received information about student needs from both our original survey as well as phone calls with caregivers. Now that more of the critical pieces for planning are known, next week we will be working closely with our teams to consult about more specific schedules and plans with you. You should expect to be contacted by someone from your child's team or school, and ultimately, we will share a "COVID-19 Special Education Learning Plan" with you, which will document any changes that may occur with services during this remote learning phase. The state has provided very clear guidance which will be included in this document shared with you after engaging in consultation. A change in the delivery of special education services due to a school's change in learning model as a result of COVID-19 **does not result in a change to your child's IEP**. Special education laws provide protection to you and your child. You will find specific information about your legal rights within the [Notice of Procedural Safeguards](#), which the district provides to parents at least once annually. This document includes sources that you may contact for assistance in understanding your rights. We will be providing hard copies of the "COVID-19 Special Education Learning Plan" as well as the Notice of Procedural Safeguards with caregivers.

We understand that this has been such a challenging time and our goal is to provide you with specific plans for your child as soon as possible. We are grateful for the collaboration you have shown as we gathered information about your child's needs, and our Teams are so very excited to be working with your children again. Our teams will be providing a robust and wide range of supports remotely and in person to meet individual students' needs.

I am grateful for the kindness and compassion we share with each other as a community. We are all trying to determine how to shift given our challenging circumstances, and I look forward to continuing to support you and your family.

Take care,  
Pam Plumer