

May 2020

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

This communication is intended to provide an update regarding our actions to support the learning of students with disabilities during the summer. Due to the unprecedented public health crisis, the extension of the Dane county COVID-19 emergency declaration through July 15, and continued school closure, the Madison Metropolitan School District (MMSD) will be providing Summer School virtually. Similarly, for students eligible for Extended School Year (ESY), we will provide special education and related services virtually. Our hope is that virtual ESY services will be beneficial in meeting regression/recoupment and critical stage needs of many students with IEPs who have already engaged in on-line learning over the past six weeks. During this closure period, we are making every effort to ensure each student with a disability has/receives services needed to attain:

- Equal access to instructional opportunities
- A free appropriate public education
- Progress toward meeting goals outlined in the IEP

In the transition to a virtual learning environment, our goal has been to provide appropriate and high quality learning opportunities for your child under these unprecedented circumstances. As such, we've learned a great deal over the last two months and are committed to improving and innovating to meet the needs of your child. At the same time, we acknowledge providing services in a remote environment inherently comes with challenges, and we will do our very best to navigate these challenges with you and your child through the following weeks or months.

What you can Expect to Receive in the Coming Weeks

If you've already had an IEP meeting to determine ESY services, your child's special education teacher will review the document and create a Prior Written Notice (PWN) to communicate the level and type of services which can be provided virtually. Additionally, they will follow up with a phone call to discuss any necessary changes, including services that can not be provided virtually. We plan to utilize the same process used during the initial transition when PWNs were written for IEPs.

If your child has not yet had the IEP meeting to determine ESY eligibility and services, please know the IEP will be written to reflect what will be provided in the virtual education environment.

Community Vocational Programming

If aspects of society begin to reopen during the summer allowing students to return to their vocational placements, assistant directors will lead IEP teams to discuss the level and type of job coaching support available within district employment parameters and in partnership with adult service providers, when applicable. Vocational support, as the potential exception to virtual ESY services, may be necessary to facilitate community partnerships and smooth transitions for students exiting school. The safety of students and staff will be considered in making determinations about support at job sites.

When Regular (face to face) School Resumes

Once schools reopen, staff will comprehensively assess student skills and progress toward IEP goals. This information will be utilized to inform subsequent IEP decisions. Your input will be critical during this process. For example, if a student has lost significant essential skills, their IEP team will discuss the instruction and services necessary to address this regression. In some cases, this may be in the form of compensatory or extended school year (ESY) services.

Who to Contact with Questions

When questions or concerns come up, please begin by contacting your child's special education teacher or related services provider. If your questions or concerns persist, please contact the building PST or building administrator. If the issue or question is not resolved at the building, please contact the level Student Services administrator, contact information can be found on our website [Special Education](#) and [Staff Directory](#).

With respect,

John Harper

John Harper
Executive Director, Student Services