



IRVINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS SPECIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

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Dear Parents/Guardians,

One of Irvington Public School's top priorities during the ordered school-building closure period, which seeks to diminish the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19), is to ensure students with disabilities receive educational services that will ensure their progress and meet their goals outlined in their Individualized Education Programs (IEPs). We recognize this might pose some challenges, but we are heartened by how our special education community has stepped up to provide educational services during this unexpected and unprecedented time.

Our Irvington Public School website presently offers the following Special Education supports for our students and families:

- Letter explaining the IEP process during this emergency situation
- Child Study Team contact list
- Speech Therapist contact list
- Special Education Hotline with special education teachers standing by to assist parents
- Speech Therapy videos
- Occupational Therapy Supports
- Autism Toolkit and Lessons for the Autistic child
- Parent tips on behavior, resources

The New Jersey Department of Education has recently given us permission to conduct Speech therapy sessions and Counseling sessions remotely. Therefore, these therapists will attempt to contact you based on the phone numbers and/or emails we presently have. You can take the initiative to reach out to the Child Study Team members or the Speech therapists via email, their emails are on the Irvington website.

In addition our special education staff members will be asked to reach out to our families to provide support and instruction through phone calls, class Dojo, Google classroom, or through Google meetings. Your child's special education teacher will reach out to you based on the following guidelines;

- Students enrolled in the Community Based Instruction HS program or any of our PK-12 Autistic classes will be contacted on a daily basis
- Students that are enrolled in our Self Contained programs will be contacted three times per week
- Students enrolled in a Resource Room or Inclusion program will be contacted two times a week

Our Child Study Team members are also still conducting IEP meetings to maintain compliance and are there to answer questions regarding your child's program, especially during this difficult time. We want to assure you that we are trying to support you and your child during this emergency situation.

Thank you for your support and anticipated cooperation. We hope that you and your family remain in good health and we hope to see you back in the schools soon.

Sincerely,

Patricia Dowd
Director of Special Services

Lystrea Crooks
Supervisor of Special Services