



Pablo Muñoz
Superintendent of Schools

Cynthia Marie Costa
Director of Special Education

March 20, 2020

Dear Students and Parents,

I am writing to provide you with specific information regarding home-based instruction for special education students in specific programs. Below, please find a brief explanation regarding the additional actions being provided to support students enrolled in specialized programs. In addition, you will be contacted by members of the Child Study Teams and special education teachers to provide specific guidance and support.

Autistic, Intellectual Disability, and Self-Contained Preschool Programs

Caseworkers and/or teachers will reach out to families to schedule the pick-up of specific instructional materials and to sign out iPads for those students that are currently using the Proloquo2go application as part of their instructional plan.

Severe Learning/Language Programs in Grades K - 8

Caseworkers and/or teachers will reach out to families to schedule the pick-up of specific instructional materials. Teachers will communicate with families of students in grades 6-8 to access Google Classroom assignments if applicable.

All Other Programs

Preschool through grade 8 students enrolled in other programs are able to utilize the home-based instruction materials available to all of our students. Classroom teachers will be communicating with parents and students regarding the assignments. All of the instructional resources can be found at <http://passaicschools.org/home-instruction/>. For families unable to access the materials online, you may pick up hard copies at our resource centers (Schools 3, 6, 8, 10, 19, 21, or PHS) from Monday, March 23, 2020 through Friday, March 27, 2020, from 8:00 am through 12:00 pm. Modifications and accommodations will be available through the assistance of your classroom teacher and/or paraprofessionals via email.

Students in grades 9-12 will be able to access all of their schoolwork through the APEX online learning program. Learning modules and instructions for accessing APEX are available on the district website. Modifications and accommodations will be available through the assistance of your classroom teacher and/or paraprofessionals via email.

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Additional Online Supports

Students who utilize Read 180 or System 44 in class are encouraged to spend 20-30 minutes on the software section daily. They can also utilize the “ebooks” section to access leveled readers for daily independent reading and/or for reading log assignments. Directions for accessing the programs can be found here: <https://files.passaicsschools.org/home-instruction/manuals/system44-read180-login-procedure-eng-spa.pdf>

Out of District Students

Students who attend Out-of-District Schools will follow the plans for instruction as per documents disseminated by their individual school.

Will my child receive related services, as indicated in their IEP?

The United States Department of Education has provided guidance regarding the provision of related services to children with disabilities. It can be found here:

<https://sites.ed.gov/idea/files/qa-covid-19-03-12-2020.pdf>

Please note recent legislation only recognizes tele-practice support for speech therapy and counseling services.

Compensatory Services

Compensatory services may be offered based on student need and guidance from the New Jersey Department of Education and U.S. Department of Education.

The Division of Special Education is doing our best to accommodate the needs of our special education population during this challenging time. Adjustments to this guidance may be made if state and federal laws and regulations change. Thank you for your patience and cooperation during this time.

Warm regards,

Cynthia Marie Costa

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