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8-13-2020

Special Education Comprehensive Distance Learning 20-21

Greetings,

While we all want students to return to full on site in person instruction, the county metrics will not allow that option right now. We want to assure parents of students with Individualized Education Plans (IEP's) for Special Education Services we are working diligently to provide your students the services listed in their IEP's through our newly developed Comprehensive Distance Learning Model. We are following the guidance provided by the Oregon Department of Education for Special Education on August 11, 2020 fully. Special education services will happen through live virtual sessions by either class or small group depending on the needs of the student. Your child's school will communicate schedules during the week of Sept. 1-4.

We can implement most IEP's as written with no changes needed due to the live instruction provided virtually to whole classes and small groups. For some students, we will need to convene an IEP team and develop new supports and services to ensure student have access to a Free and Appropriate Public Education. You may receive a call in the next few weeks to set up a virtual IEP meeting to add or adjust supports for Comprehensive Distance Learning. All other IEP meetings will happen on the regular annual due date. Parents always have the right to request an IEP meeting for their student at any time. We will schedule parent requested meetings at the next earliest date where all team members are available.

General and Special Education Teachers report back to work August 26. Special Education Teachers will review all student IEP's for students who are on their caseload/class list. They will prioritize scheduling IEP meetings right away for students whose IEP teams will need to meet to adjust the IEP given the requirement to provide education through Comprehensive Distance Learning. They will also develop schedules for class and small group instruction.

Teachers will be calling to connect with you and your student in the coming weeks. This is a good time to get to know your child's teacher and ask any questions you may have. If you have concerns, please share them at this time.

Please know that we are truly committed to every student, every day. We are working hard to make our services engaging, meaningful and effective for students who experience a disability. Your input on what works and does not work for your child is invaluable as we plan and prepare for Comprehensive Distance Learning. We are in this together!

Sincerely,

Julie Smith,

Pendleton School District Director of Special Programs, 541-276-6711