

Raymond School District

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Karen Stuart, Human Resources Coordinator
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Dear Parents,

3-17-2020

During this time of transition from in-school education to remote learning, we are going to need your support as we figure out the details. Each building is collectively working to provide your child with the best education that we can remotely. With that said, the Special Education Department will also be providing support remotely to the greatest extent possible. We received guidance from the Office of Special Education Programming (OSEP), the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the Department for Health and Human Services (DHHS) last night. Their guidance is listed below.

The Department's position is consistent with the OSEP guidance stating that if non-disabled students are receiving remote or other instruction, we need to find ways to provide special education student's services outlined in their IEP. If non-disabled peers are not receiving instruction, special education students would not necessarily receive services.

Our approach is a three-tiered safety net of support for students with an IEP:

- Services may be of a nature that they can be provided in a remote instructional environment. This may include, for example, daily "check-ins" with a student, which may be able to be provided seamlessly in a remote instruction model.
- Another option may be to have a limited number of students (hence lower COVID-19 risk) continue to come to the school for those specific services. This might be OT/PT, or perhaps speech therapy or student counseling. The team may determine that these students can come to the school building for these limited services only. **(This is not an option until 4-3-2020 and will be reassessed at that time.)**
- When services cannot be provided, the child can expect to receive compensatory services in the future (to make up for the special education and/or related services the child missed), or
- A combination of any of these options.

Given this guidance from OSEP, it will be important to take this planning time to look at the nature of services the Raymond School District provides in support of your students and what approach will be best to provide those services. We will look at students individually to determine the feasibility of continuing to provide services.

As each building is discussing and determining the best way to deliver support services, they will give consideration to students with a disability at high risk of severe medical complications or because they

are ill or have been exposed and they may need to be excluded from school during an outbreak of COVID-19. If the exclusion is a temporary emergency measure the provision of services such as online or virtual instruction, instructional telephone calls, and other curriculum-based instructional activities, to the extent available, is not considered a change in placement.

During this time period, a child's parent or other IEP team member may request an IEP meeting. There is no prohibition on holding an IEP meeting, although a telephonic meeting would of course be lower risk to all involved. This request for a meeting may be to specifically discuss the potential need for services if the exclusion is likely to be of long duration (generally more than 10 consecutive school days).

Each building is working towards setting up services as soon as possible so that your child can access their curriculum. Please be patient as we work out the details with service providers and special education teachers. In addition, each student in special education will have a special education teacher assigned to them. This will be your main source of contact moving forward.

If you have any questions, please contact the Special Education Administrator for your building or me directly.

Lamprey River Elementary School – Marissa Nerenburg – m.nerenburg@sau33.com
Iber Holmes Gove Middle School – Rebecca Hadik – r.hadik@sau33.com
Raymond High School – Kimberly Capen – k.capen@sau33.com

Respectfully,

Scott Riddell



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