

## **Special Education Services During Extended eLearning**

Please understand that, given the fluid nature of the situation, this guidance could be revised at any time. Any changes in this plan will be the result of our desire to protect your child and your family from contracting the virus, and will be communicated via the EACS website on the main page. Any questions regarding special education services during an extended closure with e-learning should be directed to Connie Brown, Director at 260-446-0121.

### **Special education services:**

During an extended closure, special education instructional services will be provided per the EACS eLearning plan as usual. This includes all instructional, speech/language therapy, early childhood, occupational therapy, and physical therapy services. Lessons and/or assignments will be posted to Canvas, using as much technology as possible and appropriate, and only supplemented with paper/pencil activities when absolutely necessary. Paper/pencil assignments should NOT be returned to your child's teacher—the completed assignment should be photographed and emailed to the teacher or dropped off to avoid spreading of the virus. NO SERVICES WILL BE PROVIDED FACE TO FACE.

### **Special education evaluations:**

School psychologists and speech therapists must conduct evaluations as a part of their regular duties, in order to meet student needs and to ensure that services provided are appropriate. During an extended closure, school psychologists and speech therapists will arrange online testing sessions with students who are being evaluated using a free app called Zoom. He/she will email an invitation to you/your child to join the meeting. Once you/your child receives the email invitation, they should click on the link within the email, then click on "Join the Meeting" within the app. Students will be able to see and hear the school staff conducting the evaluation during the time they work. Any portions of the evaluation that cannot be completed in this manner must be documented carefully, and will be completed as soon as possible after EACS returns to normal attendance.

## Homebound Services UPDATED:

HOMEBOUND SERVICES WILL NOT BE PROVIDED FACE TO FACE. We have UPDATED our guidance for the provision of homebound services to offer the following options:

1. Homebound services may be provided via eLearning format;
2. Homebound services may be provided via Zoom; or
3. Homebound services may be suspended (if both you and your child's teacher(s) agree that an eLearning/Zoom format will not meet his/her needs) until EACS resumes normal attendance. All services missed during the extended closure will be documented and provided as soon as EACS returns to normal attendance. This may mean we will be making these services up over the summer, or even into next year, depending on each individual student's IEP/homebound plan. Please note: this option will require proof of your agreement, via email preferably or at least via phone conversation with the teacher(s).

If you feel have any questions, please call Connie Brown at 260-446-0121.

## Case Conferences:

During an extended closure, certain case conferences will need to be held as scheduled. NO CASE CONFERENCES WILL BE HELD FACE TO FACE. Instead, **teachers will hold case conferences via Zoom (directions attached) or work with their building administrators to conduct the case conference via conference call from their administrator's phone.** We will limit the conferences held to just Initial Evaluation Review conferences, Reevaluation Review conferences, Annual Case conferences, and Manifestation Determination conferences, due to the fact that each of these conferences are dictated by timelines. Other case conferences will be held once EACS resumes normal attendance.

NOTE: IEPs, evaluation reports, and other documents will be provided to parents via email if at all possible. Teachers can also take a photo of the documents and email or text them to parents, as long as it does not overload parents' inbox. If a teacher is unable to find a way to get an IEP or document to the parent electronically, they should contact Barb Miller at 260-446-0128 to make arrangement to have the document mailed to the parents via USPS.

