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Distance Learning Supports for Students with Disabilities during School Closure to Prevent/Contain the Spread of COVID-19 (Coronavirus)

As we write this, we hope you are doing as well as possible in these challenging times. We have thought of you often over the past weeks while we have been working hard to thoughtfully develop an entirely new way of providing public education to all of our students.

As a parent/guardian of a child with a disability, we want to explain how we intend to work with you and your child to implement educational programming and provide supports and services while our traditional schools and programs are closed due to the COVID-19 global health pandemic. In the days ahead, your child will receive special education and related services to the greatest extent feasible, delivered in an alternative manner. Please understand, this is not a new offer of FAPE or a change in the offer of a FAPE that existed prior to school closures. This will be a plan for how the District will implement your child's special education and related services to the extent possible during school closures. When it is safe to resume in-person learning and students return to school, your child's IEP will resume as the same program he/she/they received prior to the closure, unless we have your consent to implement an updated IEP developed through an annual or triennial review.

District staff will be in frequent communication and will work collaboratively with you to discuss your child's individual needs and the supports that will enable him/her/them to access Distance Learning. We will utilize a variety of methods to provide access that is appropriate for your child. You are an important part of the ongoing discussions and implementation of the plan for your child while your child is at home. We expect this to be an ongoing conversation with you, and one which may result in adjustments, with your input, over the course of time it is implemented.

Our first steps have been to make sure you and your child have access to the technology you need to partner with us in implementing the plan for your child. We have distributed Chromebooks at school sites. If you have any concerns that you still do not have access to necessary technology for Distance Learning, please let us know. We are committed to working with you to ensure that your child can access services and supports in a meaningful and equitable manner.

Next, your child's teacher, and/or related services provider(s) will be contacting you, to discuss how the supports and services written in the last agreed-upon IEP for your child can be

implemented in the Distance Learning environment. Although we are endeavoring to provide supports and services to the greatest extent possible, during school closures due to the COVID-19 pandemic, certain types of supports cannot be provided due to the limitations of physical distancing. There may be supports or services on your child's IEP that cannot be provided at this time due to our capabilities, but we are continuing to assess ways in which we can continue to make the delivery and implementation of our programming as successful as possible. We anticipate that supports and services might continue to be revised and we intend to involve you in those discussions based on your child's experience with the Distance Learning program.

Thank you for your understanding and patience as we work together to continue to provide quality education to our students in these challenging times.

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