



March 18, 2020

Re: Special education services during times of school closure due to threat of COVID-19

Dear parent, guardian, or adult student,

In his letter to Portland Public Schools families, Superintendent Botana shared that Portland Public Schools made the decision to close all of its schools from March 16th until March 30th due to the recent increased needs regarding the threat of coronavirus. In that letter, March 16 and March 17 were noted to be non-student days (like storm days) to allow teachers and staff to prepare for remote learning experiences for students.

Teachers, specialists, and therapists are working with school teams to collaborate on learning activities so your child's learning during the weeks of closure can include accommodations and services on their Individualized Education Plan (IEP). Teams worked on initial plans on Monday and Tuesday, and will communicate plans to parents and adult students this week. What you can expect:

- Communication from your child's case manager about how your child's IEP will be implemented during this 2-week period of school closure and how any additional materials and activities will get to your child
- Communication from your child's service providers (Speech, OT, PT, Social Work) about how services will be delivered or accommodated during this 2-week period of school closure
- Additional information about required IEP meetings or special education provisions as it becomes available

We are actively looking at ways to keep your child engaged in learning during this period of school closure. Please reach out to your child's case manager if you have questions or concerns. If you prefer, you may contact our district office at the number below to speak to me or one of our Assistant Directors.

If your child participates in a special purpose school outside of our district schools, that school will communicate any closures or changes to their schedule directly to you. Many schools in our immediate area are making decisions about closing. We are sending individual communication to families of students in special purpose schools as soon as we have that information.

Superintendent Botana will continue to communicate regularly with families during this closure. I will provide updates and regular communication regarding special education services during the closure as well.

Please be safe and reach out to the Student Services Department if you have questions or concerns about special education for your child.

Sincerely,

Deborah Mullis
Director of Student Services
Portland Public Schools
(207) 874-8134
P433- ENG Special Education Letter