

From: Harris, Katherine

Sent: Sunday, March 15, 2020 7:39 AM

To: An, Kyungjoo <kan@fcps.edu>; Bousman-Stanczak, Heather <hdbousmansta@fcps.edu>; Gerstner, Dave <DRGerstner@fcps.edu>; Greata, Kevin J. <KJGreata@fcps.edu>; Green, Rashida <rjgreen1@fcps.edu>; Hassen, Lesley <lhassen@fcps.edu>; Hein, Lauren <ldhein@fcps.edu>; Johnson, Michele (Lanier MS) <mjohnson@fcps.edu>; Johnson-Hightower, Keieownna S <ksjohnsonhig@fcps.edu>; Loesch, Erica <emloesch@fcps.edu>; Phillips, Dan <drphillips@fcps.edu>; Smith, Christopher M <CMSmith@fcps.edu>; Strayhorn, Debbie <dastrayhorn@fcps.edu>; Taylor, Dylan P. <DPTaylor@fcps.edu>

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Subject: Special Ed Update

Good morning,

I wanted to give you all an update with the most recent information we have received regarding school closures during this time.

Because the Governor requested schools be closed for the next two weeks, Special education services and provision of FAPE are not required during the two weeks starting Monday, March 16. This means no IEP meetings will be occurring during time, either. When teachers do return to work, DSS is considering plans for conference calling as a means to conduct some meetings.

Please know that the US Dept of Ed and VDOE continue to declare that we are expected to meet special education timelines, however we expect more guidance to come out at some point.

As soon as any additional information or guidance becomes available, I will be sure to pass it on. Thank you for your patience during this ever-evolving time. I hope you and your family all stay healthy during this time away from school!

Katie Harris

Procedural Support Liaison

Fairfax Pyramid and Burke School

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From: Harris, Katherine

Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2020 8:58 AM

To: An, Kyungjoo <kan@fcps.edu>; Bousman-Stanczak, Heather <hdbousmansta@fcps.edu>; Gerstner, Dave <DRGerstner@fcps.edu>; Greata, Kevin J. <KJGreata@fcps.edu>; Green, Rashida <rjgreen1@fcps.edu>; Hassen, Lesley <lhassen@fcps.edu>; Hein, Lauren <ldhein@fcps.edu>; Johnson, Michele (Lanier MS) <mjohnson@fcps.edu>; Johnson-Hightower, Keieownna S <ksjohnsonhig@fcps.edu>; Loesch, Erica <emloesch@fcps.edu>; Phillips, Dan <drphillips@fcps.edu>; Smith, Christopher M <CMSmith@fcps.edu>; Strayhorn, Debbie <dastrayhorn@fcps.edu>; Sweet, Thomas M <tmsweet@fcps.edu>; Taylor, Dylan P. <DPTaylor@fcps.edu>

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Subject: Special Ed Update #2 - March 17

Good morning,

I wanted to pass on the most up to date information principals have received regarding special education. The important gist of the messaging below is that ***while staff are not required to work at this time, schools should not be completing eligibility, IEP, and local screening meetings.*** Once staff return to work, procedures will be put into place to complete such meetings virtually. I'm hoping we receive further information about what that looks like by the end of next week.

We are all in this same situation and the Office of Special Education Procedural Support is monitoring VDOE and USDOE for guidance about the best way to proceed. I appreciate your patience, flexibility and understanding as we all navigate this uncharted territory together. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have more specific questions.

Special Education

5. What are the expectations for meeting special education and Section 504 timelines while schools are out?

USDOE and VDOE have advised that special education timelines continue in spite of school closures. However, special education meetings such as eligibility and IEP meetings cannot be completed without staff who are not required to work at this time.

FCPS is working on a plan to issue additional conference lines and video conferencing options via Blackboard Collaborate Ultra so schools can complete meetings when parents agree with this method. Once school staff return to work, there will be procedures shared to enable completion of screening, eligibility and IEP meetings.

6. Should we be setting up IEP/ 504/ evaluation/ screening meetings now and bringing in staff to make sure we meet timelines?

Local Screening Committee meetings should NOT be scheduled until a determination has been made that school staff will return to work remotely. Messaging will go out to principals and staff once this decision has been made.

7. Are there any resources we can offer our families of students with significant disabilities for respite care?

The Arc of Northern Virginia has a directory of 26 Child Care Respite options on their website:

https://thearcofnova.org/business-directory/wpbdp_category/child-care-respite/

Staff members who are interested in supporting these efforts while schools are closed can reach out to these partnering organizations.

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From: Harris, Katherine

Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2020 11:11 AM

To: An, Kyungjoo <kan@fcps.edu>; Bousman-Stanczak, Heather <hdbousmansta@fcps.edu>; Gerstner, Dave <DRGerstner@fcps.edu>; Greata, Kevin J. <KJGreata@fcps.edu>; Green, Rashida <rjgreen1@fcps.edu>; Hassen, Lesley <lhassen@fcps.edu>; Hein, Lauren <ldhein@fcps.edu>; Johnson, Michele (Lanier MS) <mjohnson@fcps.edu>; Johnson-Hightower, Keieownna S <ksjohnsonhig@fcps.edu>; Loesch, Erica <emloesch@fcps.edu>; Phillips, Dan <drphillips@fcps.edu>; Smith, Christopher M <CMSmith@fcps.edu>; Strayhorn, Debbie <dastrayhorn@fcps.edu>; Sweet, Thomas M <tmsweet@fcps.edu>; Taylor, Dylan P. <DPTaylor@fcps.edu>

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Subject: Special Ed Update #3 - March 24

Good morning, all,

I wanted to check in with you all after the latest news from Governor Northam indicating that schools would be closed for the remainder of this academic year. I'm sure this brings many questions to mind for you all, as I know you care deeply about supporting your students and families during these unique and unprecedented times.

All PSLs are scheduled to have a Blackboard collaborate session this Friday to learn more about plans for virtual meetings and other factors that are impacting the work we do. I welcome your questions before then so hopefully I can get some answers for you.

In the meantime, if you are interested, the Council for Exceptional Children produced a webinar this week that was recorded and posted to YouTube called " Teaching Special Education Online During COVID-19." I know these times have brought uncertainty and challenges for all of us, but hopefully this can provide you with some insight into how we may support our learners in a digital format.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PaAzagd13hE>

As always, I will share updates with you as I receive them. I hope you are staying home, staying safe, and taking some time to take care of yourself.

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From: Harris, Katherine

Sent: Sunday, March 29, 2020 10:14 PM

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Subject: Special Ed Update #4 - March 29

Good evening,

I hope everyone had a good weekend, even though all the days seem to blend together and every day feels a little bit like the weekend.

I wanted to provide you will some updates and feedback on the questions you all provided me last week. Below are links to two documents with [COVID-19 FAQs](#) and [IEP Meeting Preparation and Logistics](#).

The Office of Special Education Procedural Support is working on a more specific FAQ document, but I wanted to give you some answers as quickly as possible to some of your questions as I know you're antsy and ready to get to work. As I know you can imagine, we are having to adjust our way of thinking for almost everything. In tackling these changes, we have focused on the biggest issues thus far related to scheduling and conducting special education meetings. Things are changing on a daily basis so I appreciate your patience as we navigate this together.

As always, please let me know what questions you have. If I don't have an immediate answer, I will work to find one for you! 😊

Katie Harris

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