

Berlin Central

School District

Office of Exceptional Education
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April 1, 2020

Dear Parents/Families of Students with Disabilities,

New guidance continues to be sent as we work through these unprecedented times. As a staff, we are communicating daily on how best to support our students and ensure that their needs are being met. There are a few things occurring specifically in the area of special education.

First, both Federal and State guidance has been sent regarding the provision of special education services remotely during building closure. Guidance states that schools must continue to provide special education services while protecting the health and safety of students and staff. However, it is acknowledged that under these circumstances, schools may not be able to provide all services in the same manner they are typically provided. Flexibility is given in the guidance to provide services virtually, online, or over the phone.

What this means is that you will receive invitations to virtual conferences, video calls, and phone calls from special education teachers, related service providers, and teaching assistants to provide your student his or her services to the greatest extent possible. Special education teachers and related service providers are also communicating about student needs and designing instruction regularly with general education teachers. All of these services are being carefully planned and documented by our staff.

Additionally, we are beginning to reschedule and continue to schedule CSE meetings. At this time per the governor's orders to shelter-in-place, these meetings will be done via Google Meet video call or conference call. When these meetings are scheduled, you will receive both a link to participate via video call if you have a device with a camera and a phone number to call to participate via conference call.

If you would like an in-person meeting, we can hold a program review at your request after the shelter-in-place order has been lifted.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to your students' providers or myself at any time.

Thank you for your understanding throughout these unique circumstances.

Sincerely,

Samantha J. Brewer
Direction of Exceptional Education
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