

Oxford Area School District

David A. Woods
Superintendent

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Kids First, Progress and Unity

Dear Parent/Guardian:

As you are aware, we are currently closed for all students in accordance with Governor Wolf's school closure order. The COVID-19 pandemic-related closure will continue longer than first expected. Moving forward we will be implementing an interim plan to offer continuity of education to our students using alternative means during the period of the school closure. The goal of the Oxford Area School District's continuity of education plan in the short term is to have all students engage in review of curricular materials for which they previously received planned instruction prior to the COVID-19 school closure. The continuing goal is to progress to provide planned instruction, including pre-teaching and teaching the curriculum, and to assess the same for all students. The anticipated start date for the short-term goal is April 6, 2020, and the anticipated start date for the continuing goal is April 20, 2020.

Likewise, please be advised that our plan is to continue to provide continuity of education for your child's free appropriate public education ("FAPE"), and to do so through a virtual platform. This plan is consistent with guidance issued by the U.S. Department of Education and Bureau of Special Education in affording public schools "flexibility" in these unique circumstances, and this is consistent with our district-wide continuity of education plan. Most importantly, this plan is consistent with the need to protect the health and safety of all students and those individuals providing education, specialized instruction, and related services to these students during the COVID-19 pandemic-related school closure.

The change to a virtual platform alone will make your child's FAPE different, as it will for all students' educational services. Additionally, in order to provide your child a continuity of FAPE through a virtual platform, we may need to initiate temporary, COVID-19 pandemic-related changes to your child's IEP or Section 504 Plan in order to be able to implement the plan in a virtual setting based upon your child's needs as much as possible. By virtual setting, we mean this can include accessing online material and/or contact via a possible variety of telephone, audio, video or other online, virtual means. Please understand there may be limitations we face in trying to do so given the COVID-19 response effects. These changes are temporary. We all look forward to resuming school in person back in our buildings when the COVID-19 pandemic is over and it is safe to do so. Any change in services, whether formally changed in your child's IEP or 504 plan or which occur simply out of necessity because of the change in format of instructional delivery, will revert back to the pre-quarantine practice automatically, and will not require additional meetings.

The next steps will include contact from your building principal and/or case manager, or where applicable our Section 504 coordinator, to relay more details regarding our plan and to engage in a discussion of how your child's FAPE can be provided in a virtual platform to allow for a continuity of education in line with the district-wide plan to provide enrichment and review opportunities during the COVID-19 school closure. We are proud of our professional support personnel. We are confident that they will all work together with you to get your child through this pandemic and all it involves as best as we can in the circumstances.

For more information about your rights as a parent of a child with a disability, view the Notice of Procedural Safeguards on our District's website on the special services page.

Sincerely,
David Woods, Superintendent of Schools

Jordan Bank School Elk Ridge School Nottingham School Hopewell Elementary School Penn's Grove School Oxford Area High School

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