



Waterford Township
School District

Dr. Brenda Harring
Superintendent

Ashley B. Power
Assistant Principal of Elementary Education
and Student Support Services

March 16, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Given the most recent news of Waterford Township School District closures, I am writing to share our current plans for special education and related services in Waterford. As this is a fluid situation, our approach may be amended if closure is extended. We appreciate your patience as we work through this process.

- Child Study Team meetings, including Annual Reviews, will be conducted as scheduled but will be facilitated remotely. More specifically, we will be reaching out to parents via phone to participate in meetings or parents may elect to participate via Google Meet. Instructions to follow.
- Case Managers, Therapists and Counselors will be available to consult with parents of students with special needs daily.
- Special education teachers have provided accommodations and modifications to paper-based assignments aligned with IEP goals. In most cases, these lessons have been compiled in collaboration with their general education counterparts. Your child's teacher will be in daily contact in order to provide more detailed instructions.
- Related service providers will also provide a variety of tools, activities and personalized learning that can be accessed through the internet and/or pencil and paper. Related service providers include Occupational, Speech, and Physical Therapies, in addition to Counseling. In September of 2019, the New Jersey Department of Education disallowed the use of teletherapy (e.g. video conferencing) to deliver related services or evaluate students with disabilities. Unfortunately, the NJDOE has not lifted this rule in light of current school closures, at this time.
- As noted above, we are unable to complete evaluations remotely. If your child has begun a process for new evaluations, these will resume once we return to school.
- At this time, related services will be rendered in make-up sessions once school resumes and may also be offered in sessions once the year ends, if needed.
- Students currently on Homebound Instruction will have access to the Curriculum through email, the district website, as well as paper based materials that can be picked up at Town Hall, the Library, or the post office.

For the most up to date information please check our web site daily at wtsd.org. You may also reach out to teachers, case managers, or myself at any time.

Sincerely,

Ashley Power
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