



Waterford Township  
School District

Brenda Harring, EdD/CI  
Superintendent

Ashley Power  
Assistant Principal of Elementary  
Education & Student Support Services

March 26, 2020

Dear Parents and Friends of the Waterford Child Study Team,

I hope this letter finds you well. The purpose of this communication is to share with you our evolving plans to provide related services through online tools.

As first communicated on March 13th, New Jersey State law, beginning in August of 2019, prohibited the use of teleservices to provide related services to students with special needs. Fortunately, the NJ Legislature passed Senate bill [A3813](#) and now awaits the governor's signature. This legislation will allow us to provide teleservices for counseling and speech directly to our students. **At this time, we will only be providing Speech Language services through virtual sessions.** Counselors will be available to check in with students, but will not be conducting official sessions.

Our speech service providers have been working diligently to have plans in place to begin rolling out services to students once the bill is signed into law.

Our goal in this endeavor is to follow the guidance established by the U.S. Department of Education, which states, "To the greatest extent possible students with disabilities will be provided the special education and related services in their IEP." Our teaching staff, CST members, and related service providers have been in continuous contact in an effort to plan the best way to implement services to our children.

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To help provide further guidance and expectations for parents and students, here you will find plans for how we will be providing remote related services once the Governor signs Bill A3813:

- [Speech and Language Services](#)

Since many of the related services that we provide are done in small groups, it is important that you begin to think about your level of comfort in continuing this method of service given that parents will be able to view all children in that group. However, please keep in mind that group therapy, especially during this time, also has the benefit of social interaction.

Our speech/language providers will be reaching out to families shortly. We ask that parents respond to emails confirming consent to provide teletherapy instruction. Small group services will not commence until this has been completed.

We understand that you have been bombarded with information and communications over the past several days. We will be rolling services out incrementally; this is a new way of delivering services for our providers and we are getting these systems up and running. If you simply are not able to attend to services offered at the start, that's ok; we'll be here when you are ready.

Sincerely,

*Ashley Power*

Ashley Power  
Assistant Principal of Elementary Education and Student Support Services  
Waterford Township School District