



To: Mr. Middleton, Superintendent
Ms. Malone, Chairperson of the Board
Members of Newport Board of Education

February 17 – March 19, 2020

Exceptional Children Dept. Focus for the Month of March: Determining Process for Implementing an IEP during Non-Traditional Instructional Programming.

Operations:

- KDE 2019-20 Special Education Parent Survey posted to Exceptional Children District Webpage and emailed to parent/guardian of children identified with special needs. Information collected by KDE will be used to inform programming needs throughout the state. Districts will receive results of the survey in the Fall of 2020-21 school year.
 - Met with Related Service Providers (Mental Health Therapist, Speech and Language Therapist, Occupational Therapist, Physical Therapist and Orientation and Mobility Teacher) to coordinate and set up therapy via teleconferencing. With the exception of Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, and Orientation and Mobility Training all related special education services are being provided to students as outlined in their IEP. Related Services requiring face-to-face communication (Orientation & Mobility Training for students who are blind, Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy) will be suspended during Non-Traditional Instructional Programming. These services will be made up once we returns to regular programming/traditional instruction. In the mean time, Occupational Therapist, Physical Therapist and Orientation and Mobility Teacher will consult with parents and special education teachers monthly. Providers will support student's access to the curriculum by suggesting accommodations, modifications, and strategies for parent/teacher to implement.
 - Met with Special Education Teachers to discuss delivery of specially designed instruction via video conferencing, phone conferencing and/or skill assignment/home instruction packets. Group developed a plan for the following: Planning for instruction, documenting service minutes, collecting student performance data, and determining how to assist students in gaining access to additional educational resources if needed.
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Finance & Billing

- Newport Independent Schools will not be able to bill Medicaid for health/related services (speech & language therapy, mental health therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, and orientation and mobility) during Non-Traditional Instructional Programming. To be eligible for payment requires face-to-face communication with the student. However, we will be able to meet the related service minutes outlined on the student's IEP via video conferencing and/or phone conferencing. Although, we will see a reduction in the amount of services we are able to bill for our objective to deliver specially designed and related services as detailed in the student's IEP will be achieved.
- Cancelled all field trips, post-secondary college visits, Toyota Factor Tour scheduled during the month of April. Requesting reimbursements for scheduled field trips (Matilda –Play & Kings Island).

As of 3/19/2020 Exceptional Children Programming Rates:

- Special Education Services – 221 Students

Alternate Service Location Enrollments:

- Phoenix Program – 6 Students
- Challenge Program – 2 Students
- Home School Students – 2 Students
- Newport School of Innovation- 7 Students

Related Service Enrollments:

- Speech & Language- 49
- Occupational Therapy – 28
- Physical Therapy – 5
- Mental Health Therapy- 23
- Orientation and Mobility – 2

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Swanson

Andy Beshear
Governor



Lt. Gov. Jacqueline Coleman
Secretary
Education and Workforce
Development Cabinet

Kevin C. Brown
Interim Commissioner of Education

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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March 17, 2020

Dear Parents and Families of Students with Individual Education Programs (IEPs):

During this time of school closures due to COVID-19, there are some important things to remember. Any actions taken by a district or school regarding closures are for the safety of all students, families, school personnel and community members. As districts are determining the most appropriate steps to ensure student and staff safety, we want to provide you with guidance relating to students with disabilities and their services. It is extremely important for families and schools to collaborate and communicate regarding services for students with disabilities.

What will happen to my child's services when school is canceled for all students due to COVID-19?

1. If a school closure causes educational services for all students to stop, then the district is generally not required to provide services to students eligible for special education services during that same period of time (See [OSEP Letter to Pergament, December 2013](#)). This general standard is especially true in cases where the school district still will provide the required minimum of school days.
2. After an extended closure, districts are responsible for reviewing how the closure impacted the delivery of special education and related services to students eligible for special education services. Students may need additional services or extended school year services to make up missed services.
3. If annual Individual Education Program (IEP) reviews or eligibility reviews are due during a school closure, please work closely with your school to have the Admissions and Release Committee (ARC) meeting as soon as school is back in session or through alternate means, such as video or audio conference calls.

What will happen to my child's services when a school is closed but educational services continue to be provided through the Non-Traditional Instruction (NTI) Program?

1. If a local school district elects to utilize Kentucky's NTI Program to provide educational opportunities to the general student population, then the district also must ensure that students with disabilities have equal access to the same opportunities, including the provision of a Free Appropriate Public Education. Districts should be communicating with parents and guardians prior to, during and after NTI days regarding their child's IEP

services. Districts and schools will work to ensure that all students receive services to the most appropriate extent possible.

2. Although special education or related services may need to be adjusted, districts must provide IEP services during NTI days. Districts may provide IEP services through an alternative means, such as curriculum-based schoolwork packets, online learning or some other learning adapted to the student's needs and location.
3. ARCs are responsible for reviewing how the closure impacted the delivery of special education and related services to students with IEPs. Each student's ARC must make an individual determination to decide whether the student requires compensatory education to make up for any skills that may have been lost because the student did not receive educational benefit due to missed IEP services.
4. If annual IEP reviews or eligibility reviews are due during NTI days, please work closely with your school to meet as soon as school is back in session or through alternate means, such as video or audio conference calls.

Additional guidance:

- [Non-Regulatory Guidance Regarding the Implementation of the Non-Traditional Instruction Program \(NTI\) for Students with Individual Education Programs \(IEPs\) During Novel Coronavirus Pandemic](#)
- [KDE's COVID-19 webpage](#)
- [U.S. Department of Education's COVID-19 \("Coronavirus"\) Information and Resources for Schools and School Personnel](#)

Please direct student-specific questions to your local director of special education. For general questions, you may wish to contact a consultant within the Kentucky Department of Education's Office of Special Education and Early Learning by calling (502) 564-4970.

Sincerely,



Kevin C. Brown
Interim Commissioner of Education
Kentucky Department of Education



Gretta Hylton
Associate Commissioner
Office of Special Education and Early Learning
Kentucky Department of Education

Dear Parent,

The Newport Independent School District and the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) are seeking feedback from parents regarding how your child's school is involving you in the special education services provided to your child.

Please complete a brief, online survey to share your experience with your child's special education services during the current school year (2019-2020). Please go to www.kypso.org, and complete the eleven-question survey telling us about your current experiences.

You may also access the survey by scanning the following code into your smartphone or mobile device (if you open your camera and point it at the code it should automatically generate a link that you can access):



All responses are anonymous and cannot be traced back to you or your child. Results will be analyzed by the Human Development Institute (HDI) at the University of Kentucky (UK) and used for a report to the U.S. Department of Education. Analysis of the final report will be utilized to improve parent involvement in special education programs.

The deadline for completing this very important survey is **May 31, 2020**.

Thank you for your help.

Lisa Swanson,

Newport Independent Schools

Director of Exceptional Children