



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

August 20, 2020

The focus of this month's work has been on developing plans for delivering specially designed instruction and related services to student upon their return to school in 2020.

Exceptional Children Operations

1. Child Find and Due Process Timelines (60 School Days) continue to be in effect during the pandemic. To reduce the risk of transmitting the Coronavirus Newport purchased Pearson's on-line evaluation protocols to conduct evaluations virtually/on-line. All students suspected of having a disability or for those currently in the evaluation process will be given assessments and evaluations on-line/virtually. All district evaluators and related service providers will be trained in how to assess a student using Pearson's virtual testing products. Should there be an issue with conducting an evaluation virtually (parent being uncomfortable being a testing proctor, confidentiality, validity of assessment, age and student disability (Examples: 3 yr. olds and student w/profound disabilities) the student will be scheduled for face-to-face evaluations. Evaluations conducted face-to-face will only be conducted if the district could not guarantee valid evaluation results or parent/guardian are not able to meet proctor guidelines. In-Person Evaluation Procedures & Protocols are being developed in partnership w/school administration staff.

Procedures and Protocols being developed around virtual or in-person student evaluations:

- In-Person Evaluations - Scheduling of students and evaluators in the building to conduct assessments.
 - In-Person Evaluations – Following KDE & CDC Guidelines to ensure sanitation of room and evaluation materials used by Speech and Language Pathologist, Occupational Therapist, Physical Therapist, School Psychologist, Mental Health Clinicians, Orientation & Mobility Evaluator, and teachers. Provide appropriate PPE for student and evaluators.
 - Virtual Assessments – Training all staff and related service providers to use assessments. Train parent/guardian to serve as a proctor. Train parent/guardian on how to ensure child confidentiality during evaluations.
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2. Met with contracted related service providers to develop schedule for student services. Student Caseloads and Related Services Schedule has been developed for the following:

- ✓ Occupational Therapy,
- ✓ Physical Therapy,
- ✓ Speech and Language Therapy,
- ✓ Mental Health Therapy, and
- ✓ Orientation and Mobility Service

3. In-Person Specially Designed and Related Services.

At this time, the only specially designed or related services that will be provided in a face-to-face delivery method are those provided by Ms. Katie Toenis - Orientation and Mobility Teacher. Two students will receive services in how to navigate the streets/community of Newport. With parent consent Ms. Toenis will meet the student and guardian outside their home and practice skills necessary for community exploration. These sessions will provide student with visual impairments an opportunity to apply what they learned in class to real-world situations. All KDE & CDC guidelines will be followed during delivery of service. Speech and Language Pathologist, Physical Therapist, Occupational Therapist, and Mental Health Therapist will monitor student skill to measure regression and possible need for in-person therapy. Director of Exceptional Children will be notified and consent to in-person services prior to services being delivered in-person. A list of students receiving in-person therapy and/or services will be maintained.

4. Met with District Mental Health Clinicians (Jackie Scruggs and Amber Onkst) to develop programming goals and benchmarks. District Mental Health Service Plan will be presented at September board meeting.

Exceptional Children Programming Rates

- 504/ADA – 29 Students
- Special Education Services – 203 Students
- Phoenix Program – 8 Students
- Challenge Program – 2 Students

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Swanson
