



August 21, 2020

NEWINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

131 CEDAR STREET • NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06111

TEL: 860.667.2000 • FAX: 860.665.8616 • WWW.NPSCT.ORG

Dear Parent/Guardian:

We have received the survey response from you indicating that you have voluntarily opted to have your child(ren) participate in temporary remote learning in lieu of returning to school in person. The CT State Department of Education's (CSDE) framework for reopening schools during the 2020-21 school year requires school districts to provide ongoing support to families and students who temporarily opt into voluntary remote learning. If a parent opts into remote learning, there may be limitations related to receiving special education and related services remotely. You have previously been advised of some of the general limitations and implications of choosing this voluntary option. However, as your child is eligible for special education and related services, this letter will specifically address the impact of this choice on students who have an Individualized Education Program (IEP).

On August 12, the CSDE issued guidance which states that, "in order for a school district to provide a student with a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) and implement the student's IEP as designed, special education and related services are typically programmed for in-person access. This method of instructional delivery generally affords the student with the most equitable educational experience in the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE), and families are strongly encouraged to consider the importance of sending their children to school to receive special education and related services when feasible and supported by public health data."

In accordance with the CSDE guidance, your child's IEP will continue to reflect the services that your child would receive if he/she was participating in-school learning. Newington Public Schools will develop an IEP Implementation Plan (IP) for each student with an IEP to document the delivery of special education and related services, if services would be impacted by the school district's response to the pandemic. This IP will describe the recommended service delivery plan for each student. The IEP and the corresponding IP represent and fulfill the school district's obligation to offer FAPE.

If you choose to voluntarily opt into full remote learning, the services your child(ren) receive may differ from that which the district would be able to provide in accordance with the IEP or IP. If so, we will provide information on an individual basis regarding the provision of special education services for your children and you will also receive an addendum to the IP entitled *Parent Choice to Opt Into Full Remote Services*. This document will describe what special education services will look like for your child as you chose to exercise your right to voluntarily opt into full remote learning.

Your child's case manager will be in communication to discuss your child's individual circumstances, including but not limited to (1) sharing recommendations and seeking input regarding your child's IP, if applicable, and (2) reviewing services that would be provided pursuant to your choice for temporary full remote services.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Marilena', with a long, sweeping horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Marilena Aglieco Gulioso, MA, CAGS
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