



GROTON-DUNSTABLE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

344 Main Street Groton, Massachusetts 01450

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Jill Greene

Director of Pupil Personnel Services

March 31, 2020

Dear Special Educators and Related Service Providers,

The long-term school closure continues to generate many questions and concerns regarding special education and related services. We have been participating in webinars and phone conferences, collaborating with colleagues in districts across the state, and gathering as much information as possible regarding our evolving educational obligations to students.

Here are some highlights for week three:

- To prepare for district-wide remote learning on Monday, April 6th, we have been using the latest guidance to develop decision making guidelines and processes for Special Education supports and instruction during the school closure. We are developing these guidelines and processes with a focus on the following priorities for Special Education:
 - Services will need to be provided differently. We must shift our thinking.
 - Communication with families is essential.
 - Notification and documentation are mandatory.
 - Remote learning comes in many forms.
 - Customize for individual students taking into consideration what Gen Ed is providing.
 - Service Delivery includes Support and Instruction.
 - Planning and time for planning are essential.

We will review Phase One of our GDRSD plans with Special Education Teachers and Related Services Providers on Friday, April 3 at 12:30, via zoom.

- This week, Special Education Team Chairs will start reaching out to parents/guardians to discuss remote learning for individual students. Team Chairs will follow-up by documenting these discussions then compile and disseminate relevant information to appropriate service providers.
- Given the transition to remote learning next week, we will be moving forward with scheduling Special Education Team meetings during the school closure. Special Education Team Chairs will be reviewing individual student circumstances to make student specific decisions in consultation with parents/guardians. We will share initial decision making guidelines and processes for Special Education Team meetings as part of Phase One of our GDRSD plans when we meet with Special Education Teachers and Related Services Providers on Friday, April 3 at 12:30, via zoom.

- Enrichment activities and resources applicable and accessible for all students continue to be collected for the District website. On Wednesday night, please check out the website for the new additions.
- At this time, we are not providing home/hospital tutoring.
- As we move closer to district-wide remote learning, please consider how to make the content and format accessible to all participating students.
- MCAS administration and MCAS-Alt submissions are on hold.
- Relevant professional development options are being compiled and planned. More information will be shared soon. While you're waiting for these professional development opportunities, you can check out the resources offered by the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC), the leading professional association and source for evidence-based resources and information to help special education professionals meet the individualized needs of their students. CEC is offering free Basic Membership now through May 31: [CEC Membership Offer](#)

Thank you.

Please take care.

Sincerely,

Jill