

KAREN L. STAUB
Special Services Director

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Dear Parents and Guardians:

Please accept this letter as an update on our current plan to address your child's instruction at the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year. We understand that many of you are anxious about the readiness of your children to return to full-time learning and the possibility that the mandated closure caused by the pandemic may have caused your child to regress educationally. Although we have worked diligently during this unprecedented period of disruption to offer an array of on-line and off-line learning opportunities designed to keep students engaged and progressing in their learning, some regression is likely for the majority of learners, not just those with disabilities. Consistent with guidance from the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE), below is a short summary of our plan for addressing the needs of students with disabilities as school reopens.

To the extent in-person instruction resumes, we will gather baseline data on each student's current educational levels. We will compare that information with relevant data from last school year, prior to the COVID-19 closure, to determine if there is evidence of a regression in skills and/or behavior patterns and/or a lack of progress.

To assist the IEP team in making this determination, we will need to re-assess your child's present levels of performance in each area targeted by his or her annual IEP goals. As necessary and to the extent practicable, we will provide recoupment instruction for a reasonable period to determine how well your child returns to previous levels and is ready for new learning.

After a reasonable period of time of necessary recoupment instruction, and consistent with PDE's current recommended timeline of three months, the IEP team will meet to determine whether your child needs further support, or what PDE has defined as "COVID-19 Compensatory Services." This meeting may be a phone call between you and your child's IEP case manager if recoupment has gone well and compensatory services are not needed. We will offer a more formal team meeting if your child continues to struggle and is in need of added compensatory services. In some extraordinary cases, where a student is clearly in need of immediate assistance upon the return to school, we will schedule immediate team meetings to determine appropriate remedial actions.

Finally, please know that Lampeter-Strasburg remains committed to supporting the needs of all of our families during these unprecedented times. While we intend to proceed as outlined above, and consistent with current guidance from the state and federal government, the current situation seems to evolve frequently and rapidly. We will provide an update as soon as possible if any change occurs that requires a modification to our plan.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact your child's IEP case manager or me. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we work together to face the challenges presented to us.

Sincerely,
Karen Staub
Special Services Director