

EASTHAMPTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS



EASTHAMPTON MUNICIPAL BUILDING

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Dear Families and Caregivers,

I am writing to share the district's preliminary plan to address special education needs during remote learning. Teachers and staff return to school on August 26 at which time they will participate in professional development with a focus on remote learning for 2 weeks. All students return to learning on September 14, 2020. During the weeks of professional development, teachers and service providers will be collaborating and reaching out to families to develop learning plans for all students with IEPs. As each IEP is different, each learning plan will be different. School districts are required to deliver all services in each student's IEP.

With this school year beginning remotely, special education services will also be remote. The School Committee voted to welcome preschool students and select special populations for in-person learning on October 13, pending approval after a thorough review of health metrics. Special populations include students in our highly specialized programs—Rise, Soar, Leap, DLC, BEST, and our new language-based program at WBMS. More information about in-person learning for special population programs will be shared as decisions are made.

We are exploring the feasibility of offering occupational and physical therapies in-person, of course with proper health and safety precautions.

IEP meetings will continue to be held virtually. We are developing plans to safely conduct evaluations in person and remotely. If your child's spring evaluation was postponed, they will be evaluated this fall.

I know this might be a time of heightened stress for your family and this email likely leaves you with questions. The special education department is hard at work identifying the means to deliver IEP services and there will certainly be more information to come.

The recordings from the two Special Education Parent Forums are available on our district website under the School Reopening Heading. Please know that these forums occurred prior to the School Committee's decision to being our school year remotely.

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