



VIA EMAIL

Date: March 25, 2020
To: Irvine Unified School District Parents and Guardians
Re: Updated Notice Regarding School Closures/COVID 19

Dear Parent or Guardian:

We write to follow up on previous correspondence notifying you of Irvine Unified School District's ("District") decision to close its school campuses, effective March 16, 2020 through May 1, 2020. The purpose of this letter is to provide additional information regarding the District's proposal to continue educating its students while school campuses are closed, including its efforts to provide students with disabilities equitable access to comparable opportunities that are appropriately tailored to each student's needs to the extent feasible. This letter constitutes prior written notice, in accordance with section 300.503 of Title 34 of the Code of Federal Regulations and/or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 ("Section 504"), concerning the District's proposals.

The District is implementing Emergency Distance Learning while students are not allowed on campus due to the COVID 19 public health emergency. It is likely that your child has already been participating in Emergency Distance Learning which includes completing planned activities both provided virtually and through paper packets. In order to supplement the learning opportunities available to all students, and to ensure your child's meaningful access to those learning opportunities your child's special education service providers will be working with general education teachers, for students with general education classes, to make any necessary accommodations and modifications needed to allow your child to access the Emergency Distance Learning and will be providing individualized supports through Emergency Distance Learning based on your child's unique needs.

Additionally, if your child receives any related services such as occupational therapy, counseling, speech and language, etc, those providers will be contacting you the week following spring break to share how they will be supporting those areas of need during emergency distance learning; which may include, but are not limited to, consultation with parent/staff, direct interaction with your child via virtual platforms or by telephone, and provided activities to be completed in between virtual/telephonic sessions. Anything provided will be in compliance with federal, state, and local health official's guidance related to social distancing and consistent with the District's main priority of keeping its students, teachers and service providers safe and healthy.

Finally, if your child has an Annual or Triennial IEP due during the time that Emergency Distance Learning is occurring, their case manager/education specialist will be reaching out to you to see if you would like to hold the IEP virtually/telephonically or postpone it and hold it within 30 days of students returning to campus.

If your child experiences difficulty with access while school sites are closed, please contact the following depending on the issue:

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- If your student is struggling with **technology** please refer to the District website for information about requesting assistance from the technology department.
- If your student is struggling with **curriculum or instruction** please contact their classroom teacher and case manager/education specialist;
- If your student is struggling with **unique personal/family circumstances** (illness, attendance/participation, resources to access on line instruction, etc) please contact the school site principal or school psychologist.
- If your student is struggling **as related to their identified disabling condition**, please contact their case manager/education specialist to discuss those concerns.

In making its determination, the District reviewed and considered the following:

- Recommendations from the Center for Disease Control (“CDC”);
- Recommendations from the California Department of Education (“CDE”);
- Recommendations from the United States Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs and Office of Civil Rights (“OCR”);
- Recommendations from state and local government officials, including departments of public health; and
- All other relevant information available to the District.

As parents of a child with a disability, you have protections under the procedural safeguards of the IDEA. A copy of the procedural safeguards is enclosed with this letter for your reference. Should you need assistance in understanding your procedural rights, you may contact your program specialist (see attached list) or any of the individuals listed in the procedural safeguards.

We know that this is an uncertain time with both shared and unique stressors for all of our District families and staff. Please do not hesitate to contact your program specialist with any questions or concerns. Again, we appreciate your understanding and will be in touch as new information becomes available.

Best,

Melanie Hertig
Executive Director, Special Education

Links: [Parent Rights](#)
[Program Specialist Assignments](#)

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