



Dudley-Charlton Regional School District

From the Desk of...

Lorinda C. Allen, Pupil Personnel Director

"Equity and Excellence for Every Child, Every Day."

April 17, 2020

Covid-19 Student Support Services Update- #3

Dear Dudley-Charlton Families,

First and foremost, I hope you are all well and trying to find pockets of joy during this very trying time.

The updated federal guidance states that during this national emergency, "school districts must provide a free and appropriate public education (FAPE) consistent with the need to protect the health and safety of students with disabilities and those individuals providing education, specialized instruction, and related services to these students." In Massachusetts, DESE recognizes that these unprecedented circumstances may affect how all educational and related services and supports are provided.

The provision of FAPE may include, as appropriate, special education and related services provided remotely through resources and supports (such as strategies, projects, and packets provided to students matched with regular and ongoing communication from special education team members) and services and instruction (such as virtual, online, or telephonic instruction).

As a District administrative team, in consultation with our staff and service providers, we have been diligently working to create a DCRSD Individualized Continuation of Learning Plan for the remaining length of the extended closure for each one of our students receiving accommodations or specialized services. This does not replace or supersede an IEP, 504 or ELL Plan, but simply documents for your child what we are able to safely provide during this closure.

Highlights of the plan, will include:

1. Liaisons will reach out to parents individually to provide **consultation and to individualize and prioritize services** as much as possible. The goal is to create a schedule that is manageable for your child and family situation.
2. As we start this next phase, if a student has direct service then **at least one session** for every area of service (ex. each line of the Service Grid) is to be delivered virtually or by phone to students each week
3. Provision of consultation and services and progress will be **documented** by school staff and **linked** to IEP or ELL Plan goals and objectives.
4. The new District **feedback rubrics** for all students **will be considered individually for each student** in light of his/her IEP, 504, ELL and the current remote learning environment. If the teacher(s), service provider(s) and/or parent(s)/caregiver(s) feel that the rubric is not an appropriate form of feedback an alternate form of feedback will be agreed upon and documented in the Individualized Continuation of Learning Plan.

As we go through this experience together, the District is taking our role in providing social emotional support to students, parents and colleagues very seriously. We are impacted personally and professionally by this situation and, as parents and colleagues, are working very hard to take good care of your children and our community. If you are aware of anyone that needs additional support from community based mental health, safety, food or housing supports, please reach out to me or the school Principal and we will work together to make referrals, provide resources and support.

Dudley-Charlton is a caring and inclusive community and we can't wait to get back to being with your children in person! Please feel free to reach out to your child's principal, special education coordinator, or me with any questions you may have about this next phase of the process.

Please take care~

Lorinda Allen,
Director of Pupil and Personnel Services