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April 6, 2020

To Our Families of Students Receiving Special Education Services and Section 504 Plans:

Since March 16, 2020, the District's Exceptional Student Services Department has been working diligently to implement a plan to support the needs of our students with disabilities during this unexpected school closure. We understand that there have been moments of anxiousness and justifiable concerns about what this unprecedented closure will mean for your child. We appreciate your understanding and patience as the teachers worked tirelessly to ensure your child would still receive the best education possible despite the rapid rate of changes that have occurred beyond our control.

Beginning on March 15, 2020, special education teachers and general education teachers have been collaborating to ensure access to the content for students with disabilities. All teachers have been providing accommodations and modifications to the degree possible/appropriate based on individual student plans (IEP/504).

Student case managers have been in touch directly with the students on their caseloads and their families to discuss the manner in which special education and related services have been provided to your children (and will continue to be provided).

Any scheduled IEP/MET/504 meetings have been and will continue to be conducted virtually. To ensure that you continue to be a part of the IEP team, the case manager will provide you with copies of any draft documents prior to the IEP/MET/504 meeting. If you do not want to have your child's meeting virtually and would prefer to wait until school resumes, please contact your child's case manager as soon as possible. If you were in the process of requesting an evaluation or had an evaluation pending prior to the school closure, one of our school psychologists will be reaching out to you to provide you with an update.

Please know that the health and safety of our students, staff, and families must be prioritized. Everyone is experiencing his or her own unique challenges. Childcare, home situations and availability will vary for all -- students and staff included. Flexibility and empathy on the part of us all is essential. On behalf of the Exceptional Student Services Department, we all sincerely appreciate the understanding and patience of families as we face this new and unprecedented challenge together.

Sincerely,

Patrick Becker
Exceptional Student Services Director
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