



TOGETHER WE EDUCATE EVERY STUDENT FOR SUCCESS

To Richland School District Parents of Students with Disabilities:

During this period of school closures due to COVID-19, the Richland School District Special Education office would like to communicate with you our plan for students with disabilities. Current guidance from OSPI has directed school districts to prioritize their work in the following targeted areas:

1. Health and safety of students, staff, and communities
2. Considerations for supporting educational opportunities during school closures
3. Maintain timelines for re-evaluations and annual IEPs

It is our desire to update this plan as we receive new information from OSPI and the RSD district office. Below are answers to questions we have received:

Will my child still receive special education services during the closure?

As long as school is closed for all students, special education services will be on hold. However, it is our desire to assist parents and caretakers in supporting their children during this time. With that purpose in mind, the district will be communicating ongoing educational support ideas that can be implemented at home. These educational support ideas are to be considered supplemental learning opportunities for students. Children will not be required to complete any schoolwork nor will teachers be providing grades for any completed work. Teachers and related service providers (SLP, OT, PT, TVI) will be available via email. Please reach out to your child's teacher or related service provider if you have questions around how you can provide support for your child at home during the closure. Please keep in mind that staff responses to your emails may be delayed during the closure.

My child has a district assigned assistive technology device. Can we take it home during the closure?

Please reach out to your student's case manager this week if your student has an assistive technology device that needs to be checked out during the closure. Pickup of devices must be completed no later than this week. You will be asked to complete a device checkout form at the time of pickup.

What if my child's re-evaluation and/or annual IEP is due during the closure?

Special education staff and IEP teams may still hold re-evaluation and IEP team meetings during the closure. However, these meetings will be held in a method that allows for social distancing which may include virtual or phone participation. District staff will be making every effort to maintain re-evaluation and IEP timelines during the school closure. Staff were not prepared to do this work through a model that maintains social distancing and/or remote meeting participation, so we ask for your understanding as we work to develop these new norms and systems of operation. We are working on developing staff resources and training to allow for this. If you prefer to wait until after the closure, please notify your child's school psychologist and/or teacher. Per guidance from OSPI at the state level, we will be documenting any missed deadlines due to the closure.

I do not have a computer or internet at home. How can my child access the district online resources?

Elementary school staff are working to set aside Chromebooks for students in Grades 2-5 and other materials for all students to use while schools are closed. Parents of those students will be able to start picking up those items for their children beginning Thursday. District administrators are developing a pickup schedule that will follow social distancing guidelines.

Secondary school students should already have school-provided Chromebooks available for their use at home. If your child's device is at school and is needed during the closure, please make arrangements to pick the device up from school this week.

We understand that some of our families do not currently have Internet access in their homes, making it difficult for their children to stay connected to their teachers. Charter Communications will offer free Spectrum broadband and Wi-Fi Internet access for 60 days to households with K-12 and/or college students who do not already have a Spectrum broadband subscription and at any service level up to 100 Mbps. Families may enroll by calling 1-844-488-8395. Installation fees will be waived for new student households.

Will the district consider the need for compensatory education and/or Extended School Year (ESY) services upon returning to school after the closure?

There may be some students for which the district needs to determine whether compensatory education and/or ESY services are required. IEP teams will consider these needs on a case-by-case basis once school is back in session.

With regards to compensatory services the following will be considered:

- The district will consider the impact of the days missed on each student's progress and performance and determine how to ensure the continued provision of FAPE.
- Each student's IEP team will determine whether compensatory education is needed to "make up" any skills that may have been lost.

With regards to ESY services the following will be considered:

- Each student's IEP team will determine the need for extended school year services that include regression and recoupment time based on documented evidence or on the determinations of the IEP team, based upon the professional judgment of the team and consideration of factors including the nature and severity of the student's disability, rate of progress, and emerging skills, with evidence to support the need.

We will continue to communicate with parents as we receive new guidance and information. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we share this new experience. While responses may be delayed during the closure, we are monitoring emails and voicemails and welcome your questions. You can reach the special education office at (509) 967-6050.

Richland School District

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