



Morgan Hill Unified School District

Special Education Department

15600 Concord Circle, Morgan Hill, CA 95037

Phone: 408-201-6040

March 29, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The Special Education Department would like to update you on the efforts we have taken to support both staff and students with Distance Learning. To begin, our teachers and specialists have been busy familiarizing themselves with different online curriculum as well as distance learning options. The focus of *MHUSD's Special Education Distance Learning Plan* is to provide ongoing support and services to the best of our ability. At this time, support will include but is not limited to emails, telephone calls, work packets or web conferencing/teletherapy. Distance learning, specifically telepractice, is a nationally recognized method of providing learning and related services. At this time, no direct in-home services will be provided as we need to ensure the safety of our employees and students they serve.

MHUSD Service Providers are expected to continue to provide a free and appropriate public education (FAPE) to the best of our abilities during this unprecedented event. Please understand that during these exceptional circumstances, this may affect how all educational and related services and supports are provided. Flexibility may be necessary to adjust to the needs of the school and students in this environment. If staff have not already done so, they will be communicating with you when and how services will be provided. During designated time periods, teachers and other service providers will conduct check-ins and hold office hours to provide additional support for students. We encourage parents and educators to collaborate creatively to continue to meet the needs of students with disabilities. Distance Learning Practices can include: teletherapy; video lessons; email check-ins/coaching; phone check-ins/coaching; sharing of work/activities to be completed at home; documentation; assigning of curriculum-based resources; and assigning of instructional packets, projects, and written assignments.

The MHUSD special education staff has worked diligently and deliberately to create distance learning experiences that will provide FAPE as well as educational benefit to your student that is specifically tailored to their unique learning needs. Teachers and service providers are creating lessons and experiences tailored to your student that directly correlate with the amount of services offered in their current/last agreed upon IEP. If for some reason, a portion of the proposed plan does not work for your student, please work collaboratively with your student's case manager or related service provider in order to develop a new plan.

If your child receives a related service (Speech/Language Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Adaptive Physical Education), you will also be provided a document titled, "*Web Based Services and*

Acknowledgement Agreement.” The form provides a more detailed description of the provision of services that your child will participate in.

Additionally, to be as compliant as possible and to meet legal timelines, staff members have been instructed to commence holding IEP meetings upon returning from Spring Break if they have not already done so. As such, you will be provided with *Meeting Norms* that outline expectations to participate in either teleconference or video conferencing meetings. This will help to ensure the protection of student privacy by adhering to the guidelines set forth by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and Child Online Protection and Privacy Act (COPPA). Please also understand that some meetings will not be completed at this time. If a student needs any evaluation that requires in-person interaction or observation, available information will be presented, but follow up meetings will be held once school resumes and assessment can be completed. Do not hesitate to reach out should you have additional questions. Take care and stay safe.

Sincerely,

Dr. Rebecca O’Brien
Director of Special Education