



Parental Consent for Participation in Fairfield Public Schools' Flexible Learning Plan

April 1, 2020

During the implementation of the Fairfield Public Schools' Flexible Learning Plan staff may choose to utilize live audio and video instruction in order to provide students with high quality instructional and supportive services. This will provide the opportunity for staff and students to remain connected and engaged and will provide students more authentic and supportive experiences during this extended school closure. Fairfield Public Schools' staff aims to maintain close contact with students during this time, and the use of live video and audio provides that opportunity. We wish our students and families safety and good health during this time and by adhering to a few important guidelines listed below regarding the use of live audio and video, students and staff can benefit from the joint interaction during instructional activities.

Live video is an important tool to support student learning. It is also a new tool. Please allow time for staff to learn the capabilities and limits of its use. As we work with live video it is critical that all participants respect and follow the guidelines below or we will not be able to use this valuable approach.

As part of the Fairfield Public Schools' (FPS) Flexible Learning Plan my child may participate in instructional sessions utilizing live audio and/or video instruction and support. Additionally, this may be provided on an individual and/or group basis. By participating in the FPS Flexible Learning Plan I understand that these online sessions are occurring for the sole purpose of providing my child with instruction, support, and/or services, and as such, will take place during normal school hours and at the discretion and direction of Fairfield Public Schools' staff. I also understand and agree to adhere to, and to ensure that my child adheres to, the following guidelines when live audio and video is used:

- Be aware of what is in view on the camera behind you.
- Have my child participate from a private room for live instruction as much as possible.
- Think about the lighting on my child's face so everyone can see him/her.
- Be on time to the class or therapy session.
- Dress appropriately.
- Use of a headset or headphones is preferred, especially if you're in a room with others. Any type of headphones will work.
- Follow all guidelines established by my child's teacher.
- Respect confidentiality of all students and families always.

I understand that as my child participates in Flexible Learning using live audio and video, I may become aware of confidential and personally identifiable information about other students. I understand that student confidentiality must always be respected when participating in flexible learning. I acknowledge that it is my responsibility to respect the privacy and confidentiality of this information about all students other than my own child. I will not access, use, or disclose any confidential information of any student other than my own child. **I also agree that I will not record any portion of any live audio or video individual or group lesson.**

Additionally, if parents are with their child during a live audio or video lesson, they are asked to treat this as they would any classroom observation as if school were in session. Whether a parent is visiting a class in person or observing (or accompanying their child) during a live audio or video instructional session, it is important that they not interfere with the teacher's instruction or violate the privacy rights of other students and their families. Any disruption to the delivery of live audio or video instruction to any student at any time during the delivery of the Fairfield Public Schools Flexible Learning Plan may result in the suspension of participation in further live audio or video sessions and potential assignment of offline alternative educational opportunities.

It is the goal of the Fairfield Public Schools to continue to protect all students' privacy during these unprecedented times. We believe that the information mentioned above coupled with existing Board of Education policies regarding student privacy and confidentiality offer adequate safeguards and provide informed consent for student participation in the Flexible Learning Plan provided by the Fairfield Public Schools.

If any parent has any concerns or objects to your child's participation in live audio or video instructional learning opportunities, please contact:

- Shannon Goodchild @ SGoodchild@fairfieldschools.org if your child attends the ECC ;
- Debra DeAngelis @ DDeangelis@fairfieldschools.org if your child is in grades kindergarten through five;
- Lorraine Carr @ LCarr@fairfieldschools.org if your child is in grades six through twelve;
- Amy Borruso @ ABorruso@fairfieldschools.org if your child attends Walter Fitzgerald Campus or the Community Partnership Program;

and you will be contacted to discuss potential alternatives.