



Castleberry Independent School District

5300 Buchanan Road • Fort Worth, Texas 76114 • (817) 252-2570

Lynn Jameson, Executive Director of Special Services



3/23/20

Serving Students with Disabilities During Extended School Closure

As we face unprecedented times and seek solutions for meeting student needs during this national health crisis, we want to assure you that Castleberry ISD remains committed to ensuring that students with disabilities have access to the school's education program. As the district plans for enrichment and instruction, this includes students who have an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) through the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and those receiving services under section 504.

Based upon written guidance received from the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights Department:

"If a school district closes its schools and does not provide any educational services to the general student population, then a school would not be required to provide services to students with disabilities during that same period of time. Once school resumes, the school must return to providing special education and related services to students with disabilities in accordance with the student's IEP or for students entitled to FAPE under Section 504, consistent with any plan developed to meet the requirements of Section 504."

The Department also recognizes that exceptional circumstances affect how particular services may be provided. During this period of campus closures, the district has determined:

- IEP services will be provided indirectly through district-approved consultative modalities and resources, such as on-line learning tools, email, and virtual meeting formats with your child's Special Education teacher and service providers.
- Providers will begin IEP enrichment activities on Wednesday, March 25, 2020, that will be based upon your child's unique needs.
- Consistent with Department guidelines, if your child was pending an initial evaluation or a reevaluation under IDEA, the district will be contacting you regarding timelines and options for completing the evaluation activities in consideration of the school closure due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- All annual ARDs and essential 504 meetings will be conducted via virtual meetings and will not be held face-to-face to remain consistent with social distancing requirements as recommended by Tarrant County Public Health and the CDC. You will receive additional instructions regarding how to participate in your child's ARD meeting by the campus Educational Diagnostician and/or the Special Education teacher/case manager or the campus counselor for 504 meetings.
- Following this period of campus closure, student progress will be reviewed by your child's ARD/504 committee to determine if additional services are needed to address any loss of skills.
- Student 504 accommodations will be implemented by classroom teachers to the greatest extent possible.

If I can be of further assistance, please contact me at jamesonl@castleberryisd.net or 817-252-2572.

Best Regards,

Lynn Jameson
Executive Director of Special Services