



# COLCHESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**Kathleen Perry, Director & Rebecca Lopes, Assistant Director**  
**Department of Pupil Services & Special Education**  
**380 Norwich Ave, Colchester, CT 06415 Phone 860-537-3103 Fax:860-537-6391**

April 3, 2020

Dear families,

We hope you and your families are staying healthy and doing well. Our interim learning opportunities have begun. By this time you should have all heard from your child's case manager and special education service providers. Teachers and related service staff have been hard at work creating google classrooms, contacting families and working with students. Students have been getting acclimated to this new way of learning. We have been hearing about all of the wonderful and creative ways teachers and related services professionals are collaborating and creating individualized learning plans using this new format. Our primary focus and goal remains to stay connected to students and families during this challenging time. This is a new way of learning for both staff and students and we will learn and improve by working together. Feel free to contact your child's providers or us with any questions or concerns that you may have. We want to provide you with the support that will allow your child to access these learning opportunities to the greatest extent possible given your individual circumstances.

You may also be wondering about PPT/Section 504 Accommodation plan meetings. In accordance with federal and state guidance, districts are not required to hold PPT/504 meetings to implement alternate means of delivering special education and related services. Although PPT/504 telephone or on-line PPT/504 meetings are not prohibited, for now we are holding PPT/504 meetings only when absolutely necessary, such as when a student with an IEP/Section 504 Accommodation plan moves into the district. This allows our staff to engage more resources in providing services to students. We therefore have shifted our energy and focus towards developing and implementing continued educational opportunities and reaching out to our families.

If an IEP/Section 504 Accommodation Plan deadline occurs during school closure, your child will continue to receive the services that were outlined in the most recent IEP/Section 504 plan to the greatest extent possible in light of the current global pandemic and school closures. Please also be assured that your child's instruction will not be limited to the goals and objectives defined in the current IEP/Section 504 accommodation plan. When your child meets a goal or objective on the current IEP, the staff have been instructed to increase the learning targets so that the student can continue to be challenged and to progress. Annual reviews, evaluations and other PPTs will be rescheduled when school is scheduled to reopen. We do not know yet if schools will be back in session in time to implement any traditional extended school year programs but we continue to do our best to keep our options open. If and when this guidance shifts or changes, we will provide you with this information as soon as it becomes available to us.

If you have a particular circumstance for which you believe a PPT is essential, we ask that you reach out to your child's special education teacher to discuss. We will continue to keep you informed about educational options as we are able to put them in place and this will include the scheduling of PPT meetings as appropriate.

We hope you continue to stay healthy and safe and we very much hope to see you soon.

Warm Regards,

Kathy Perry and Becky Lopes