

**NOTICE**  
**HEALTH AND SAFETY EMERGENCY**  
**FLEXIBLE IEP IMPLEMENTATION PLAN**  
**DUE TO STATE-MANDATED COVID-19 RESPONSE EFFORTS**  
**INDEPENDENCE CHARTER SCHOOL WEST SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Dear Families of Students with Special Education Services,

In response to the spread of COVID-19 in Pennsylvania, on March 23, 2020, Governor Tom Wolf pronounced a shelter in place order for, among others, Chester, Delaware, Philadelphia and Montgomery Counties. On March 19, 2020, Governor Wolf ordered extension of the closure of all K-12 Pennsylvania schools until further notice, following an original March 13 order closing all K-12 Pennsylvania schools and the commencement of state-wide social distancing measures, as well as a March 6, 2020 proclamation of a disaster emergency in Pennsylvania and the World Health Organization's and Center for Disease Control's pronouncement of COVID-19 being, "a public health emergency of international concern."

On account of these state-mandated COVID-19 response efforts, the District buildings closed on Monday, **March 16, 2020** and the District began or will begin providing online/digital learning opportunities for all of its students on **April 13, 2020**.

Although your child's educational placement continues to be the same as is in your child's IEP, this is to notify you that in order to continue to provide educational opportunities to your child, certain aspects of your child's educational program require flexibility and adjustments in delivery due to the effect the state-mandated COVID-19 response efforts have had on the ability to fully implement your child's programming.

Accordingly, in light of the health and safety emergency circumstances accompanying the state-mandated school closures and requirement for social distancing, District staff will continue to provide an individualized education to your child to the best of our abilities through your child's IEP, with parental participation, if possible. Once schools are permitted to reopen, or shortly thereafter, your child's IEP team will provide the IEP that was in place when schools initially closed and will make an individualized determination as to whether and to what extent IEP revisions or additional services may be needed.

In the meantime, here is a description of the adjustments to provide a flexible implementation of your student's program during this health and safety emergency:

***Your child's Case Manager remains in consultation with all general education teachers to provide appropriate accommodations and specially designed instruction in your child's IEP, to the extent feasible, under COVID-19 mitigation measures.***

***You and your child may contact your child's Case Manager with questions through the District's email or during on-line office hours, which will be posted online.***

***Your child's Case Manager will contact your student weekly.***

***Your child will receive on-line direct instruction towards IEP goal(s) on a weekly schedule that is agreed upon individually to the extent feasible, under COVID-19 mitigation measures.***

***Speech Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Occupational Related Services will be available through teletherapy per the service time indicated in your child's IEP.***

***Weekly check-ins are available for all students who receive Counseling as a Related Service. Check-ins will be available through <https://sites.google.com/icswest.org/counseling-corner/home>***

***All IEP meetings will continue to be held according to state timelines. Meetings will be held via phone or Zoom conference.***

***All timelines for in-process evaluations will be upheld. Any testing or information that cannot be completed or obtained due to the school closure will be finalized once school reopens.***

We appreciate your understanding and willingness to collaborate as we work through these times. Please contact us if you would like a meeting to discuss the specifics of your child's program. We will do our best to coordinate a remote meeting.

Please take care of yourself and your family. Email or call with any concerns and we will respond as soon as we are able.

Sincerely,

Fatimah Johnson  
Supervisor of Special Education Services