

March 31, 2020

Dear Families of Pittsylvania County Schools:

In response to the COVID-19 novel coronavirus pandemic, Governor Ralph Northam declared a state of emergency for Virginia and mandated closure of all schools from March 16, 2020 to the end of the academic school year. In spite of this global crisis, Pittsylvania County Schools (PCS) remains committed to providing continuity of learning for all students while considering the health, safety, and well-being of the families and community we serve. Unprecedented times require clear and concise communication. As such, this letter is to serve as notification regarding PCS' efforts to provide special education and/or related services during this extended school closure through the end of our academic year, which ends on May 23, 2020.

We recognize barriers may exist when attempting to provide equitable access for all learners; however, PCS is prepared to work with our families to provide a learning experience that best meets the unique needs of your student and family. With that goal in mind, school staff has collaborated to design tailored alternative learning opportunities that can be implemented in the home with support by school personnel. Instruction will be contiguous to previous content and will focus on review, enrichment and extension of the learning. Over the next few days, your child's special education case manager and, if applicable, related service provider(s), will be contacting you to establish a weekly consultative services session with you and/or your child. These family-focused, student-centered sessions will be conducted at a mutually agreeable date and time via the most convenient and accessible mode of communication: email, phone conference, or virtual. PCS will also continue to hold all annual IEP and/or eligibility determination meetings within mandated timelines, as appropriate. As in-person meetings are not permissible during school closure, staff will contact you to determine the most appropriate means of participation.

We appreciate your continued support in our mission to give all students the tools they need to succeed. This change in schooling for all students presents a change in delivery of direct services needed to address the goals as stated in your child's IEP. The current IEP also lists the original dates of the academic calendar and the hours of the school day. However, if you would prefer to formally amend your child's 2019-2020 IEP to reflect the changes indicated in this notification, please contact your child's special education case manager to set up an addendum meeting. Your procedural safeguards can be found at the Virginia Department of Education website at [GENERAL INFORMATION](#). A hard copy can also be provided, upon request.

As we navigate these uncharted waters together, we encourage our families to ask questions and share concerns that may arise. Please do not hesitate to contact me in the Support Services Department at 434-251-2781 ext. 5035.

Sincerely,

Robin L. Haymore

Robin L. Haymore, Ed.S, NCSP
Associate Superintendent for Support Services