

Vinita Public Schools

Kelly Grimmert, Superintendent Rusty Rankin, Asst. Superintendent

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HORNETS



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Dear Families and Parents of Students with Disabilities,

During this period of frequent school closures, we recognize this is a difficult time for our parents, guardians, caregivers and students. We understand that one of your concerns is how your children with disabilities will continue to receive support and services from schools while they are closed due to COVID-19. During this unprecedented time, we appreciate that families and educators will work together to provide the best possible access to special education instruction and services.

In this letter, I want to share some important updates about what our school is doing to support your child during this time.

What will happen to my child's services when school is canceled for all students due to COVID-19?

1. If a school closure causes educational services for all students to stop, then the school/district is generally not required to provide services to the affected students eligible for special education services during that same period of time (See OSEP Letter to Pergament, December 2013). This general standard is especially true in cases where the school district will still provide the required minimum of school days.
2. After an extended closure, districts are responsible for reviewing how the closure impacted the delivery of special education and related services to students eligible for special education services. Students may need additional services or extended school year services to make up missed services.
3. If annual IEP reviews or eligibility reviews are due during a school closure, please work with your school closely to meet as soon as school is back in session or through alternate means, such as video or audio conference calls.

What will happen to my child's services when a school is closed but educational services continue to be provided to all students?

1. If a district has extended school closures but continues to provide educational services to all students, the district will remain responsible for the free appropriate public education (FAPE) of its students eligible for special education services with an individualized education program (IEP).
 - a. In some cases, the provision of FAPE may include students continuing to come to the school buildings to receive in-person instruction. This will apply to very few

students but there are some who need to remain in school to be able to receive FAPE.

2. Teachers should be communicating with parents and guardians prior to, during, and after an extended school closure regarding their child's IEP services. Teachers and parents will work to ensure that all students receive services to the most appropriate extent possible.
3. Although special education or related services may need to be adjusted, IEP teams should work to ensure that a student on an IEP receives services comparable to all other students. Services might include school work packets, online learning, or some other learning adapted to the student's needs and location.
4. After an extended closure, IEP teams are responsible for reviewing how the closure impacted the delivery of special education and related services to students eligible for special education services. Students may need additional services or extended school year services to make up missed services.
5. If annual IEP reviews or eligibility reviews are due during this time, please work with your school closely to meet as soon as school is back in session or through alternate means, such as video or audio conference calls.

What will happen to my child's services if school remains open but my child is sick and sent home?

1. Students who are sick and who need to stay at home for more than ten days may need to receive homebound instruction.
2. The IEP team must meet to determine how to provide services for your child. This may include school work packets, online instruction, or some other type of learning adapted to the student's needs and location.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. The easiest way to reach me is through email. My email address is martinta@vinitahornets.com.

Sincerely,

Theresa Martins
Special Education Coordinator
Vinita Public Schools