



**SPECIAL SERVICES**  
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August 15, 2020

Dear Westfield Parents of Special Education students,

As we approach the beginning of the school year, I would like to provide you with some special education updates.

The Westfield Public Schools' reopening plan was voted on at the last school committee meeting. The committee voted to implement Phase 1 in three phases, A, B, and C. In Phase 1A, vocational students will return to school during their shop weeks only.

The school committee, with guidance from the City's Public Health Director will be voting on Phase 1B, which returns "high needs" students. Based on the criteria set forth by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, "high needs" special education students have been identified as those students enrolled in our Autism Spectrum Disorder, Developmental Learning, and Essential Learning Programs. Special education students not enrolled in these programs will receive services remotely.

IEP services will be delivered remotely and with fidelity. The district will work diligently to provide appropriate special education services to students as reflected in their IEPs. Related services (speech/language therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, etc.) will continue to be delivered remotely. We are exploring ways in which to complete special education assessments in order to ensure reliable and valid results.

IEP meetings will continue to be held remotely at this time. Evaluation team leaders will contact families via email and/or phone. An additional evaluation team leader and behaviorist have been hired to support the needs of our students and families.

A full-day workshop, facilitated by the central office special education administrative team, has been offered to district special education teachers and will be held this week. Topics will include; IEP service delivery, accommodations, utilizing district resources, and data collection in a remote learning format.

I would like to thank you for your continued patience during this time. Please be assured that the special education department will strive to meet the educational needs of your children.

Gratefully,

Deb Ecker  
Interim Administrator of Special Education and Student Services