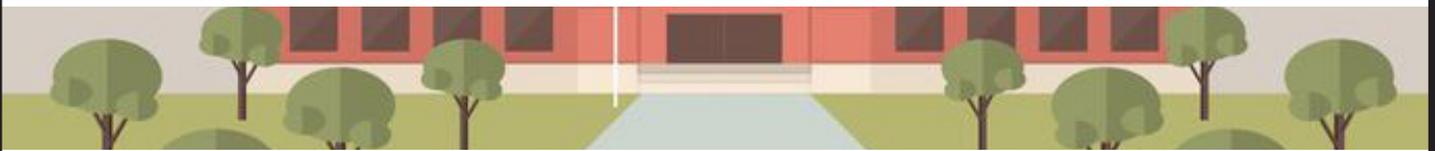


WPS and SEPAC School Closure FAQ



Q: Now with school closure will IEP meetings be held virtually?

A: Yes, as a result of Governor Baker's latest announcement last week that schools in the Commonwealth will remain closed for the duration of the 2019/2020 school year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we will now be hosting remote IEP Team meetings. To this end, you will be invited to participate in remote Team meetings through the video conferencing platform Zoom, as you are able and is convenient.

Q: How are they going to handle previously missed IEP meetings?

A: In order to reasonable prioritize the meetings in order of critical need, we will schedule IEP meetings in the following way:

- IEP Meetings for students transitioning to a new school next year
 - PreK-K (Fort Meadow to Elementary)
 - 4th-5th (Elementary to WIS)
 - 6th-7th (WIS to WMS)
 - 8th-9th (WMS to High School)

Next, we would schedule:

- IEP Annuals that have expired as a result of the closure
- IEP Annuals that are expiring through June 2020

Finally, we would schedule:

- IEP Initials and IEP Re-evals that had ALL testing completed prior to the closure
- Review of outside IEP assessment reports that have been received during the closure
- IEP Annuals that will expire in September

Q: Will invitations be sent for IEP meetings via mail or email?

A: Invitations will be sent via email and through the videoconferencing platform Zoom.

Q: What is the plan for 3 yr evaluation meetings?

A: Please see #2 above. If your child's testing was not fully completed at the time of initial closure on March 13th, in-person testing will need to be completed first before a meeting can be held. The only exception to this is if you, as the family, waive the remaining testing.

Q: How will families be notified of meetings?

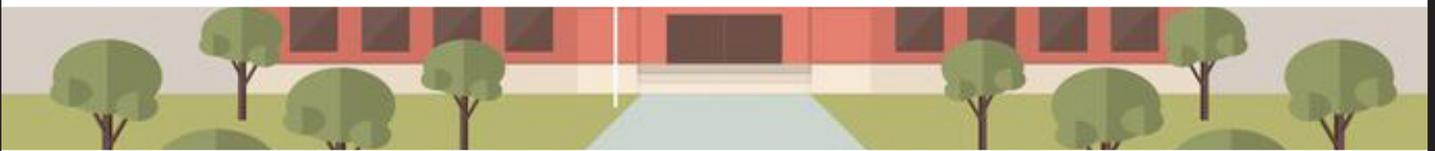
A: Remote meetings will begin the week of May 4th, 2020. You will be invited via email and through the videoconferencing platform Zoom. For those meetings that are approaching quickly, the ETL will reach out to you through a telephone call if at all possible.

Q: Are schools starting with previously scheduled IEP meetings and working backwards or can we anticipate regularly scheduled meetings will occur?

A: Please see #2 above.

WPS and SEPAC School Closure FAQ

continued



Q: Will meetings be held during school hours?

A: Yes, meetings will be held during regular school hours unless you and the ETL and other Team members agree to an earlier or later start time.

Q: How will transition meetings be conducted for child moving school to school

A: Please see #2 above

Q: What is the planning schedule for 8th graders?

A: 8th graders have begun to be scheduled into 9th grade classes. Depending on whether your student is attending WTA or WHS, you may contact the administration at the respective building to speak to the guidance department.

Q: Will there be open house opportunities over the summer?

A: It is unclear at this time, due to the COVID19 pandemic, whether the Commonwealth will have lifted its stay-at-home order. If that is lifted in time for open house opportunities and/or tours, the district would be more than willing to accommodate this keeping safety as a priority.

Q: Will there be summer school?

A: It is unclear at this time, due to the COVID19 pandemic, whether the Commonwealth will have lifted its stay-at-home order. We are also looking toward the DESE for guidance on summer Extended School Year (ESY) programming. If the stay-at-home order is not lifted in time for summer ESY programming, it is likely the programming would be conducted remotely.

Q: Are meetings optional if families prefer in-person meetings?

A: Families can certainly opt out of participating in a remote Zoom meeting. The family could either have the remote meeting continue without their participation, or wait until the stay-at-home order has been lifted state-wide.

Q: Will 504 meetings be held?

A: 504 meetings will follow the same schedule as described above in #2. Families of 504 students are encouraged to reach out to their 504 liaison for further guidance.

Q: What does signing the disclaimer mean simply?

A: The remote meeting disclaimer that will be posted at the beginning of each remote meeting does not need to be signed by the family. Rather if the family chooses to participate in a remote meeting, their consent is implied.

WPS and SEPAC School Closure FAQ

continued



Q: What will happen with owed/missed therapies such as OT, speech, ABA? Can they be made up over the summer?

A: The DESE has not yet offered guidance to districts regarding missed services or additional services as they have been referred to. If the Commonwealth's stay-at-home order is not lifted and remote teletherapy services can continue through the summer, they will.

Q: How are OOD service providers getting to their kids? Is the district still having contract workers perform services?

A: OOD students will be receiving related services through teletherapy as in-district students. However, because of the additional layer of an OOD school, the start time may be delayed. The district is still having

Q: Why are 1:1 paraprofessionals not allowed to work with a student?

A: 1:1 paraprofessionals are always supervised by their respective teacher during face-to-face service provision. The same holds true for remote services. The teacher is the remote host for the Zoom or Google Classroom and the paraprofessional is a guest as is the student. The paraprofessional can then work with the student in the remote session while being supervised by the host teacher.

Q: For remote learning, will all the same accommodations still apply? More time to finish? Less work for the totally overwhelmed?

A: Many accommodations lend themselves to remote learning such as more time to finish, fewer work problems, frequent/movement breaks, etc. However, some accommodations do not transfer to the remote environment such as seating near the teacher.

Q: Will general educators attend meetings?

A: Each out-of-district school has their own school closure plan. Families should contact their child's out-of-district school for further information and guidance.

Q: Will the district provide a parent support group?

A: Teachers, both general education and special education, will be invited to the remote Zoom meeting and are encouraged to attend. However, due to each members' current circumstances, attendance may not be practicable.

Q: How will current performance be determined?

A: Given the extraordinary situation that our students, families, and educators are experiencing, the ability to determine current performance will be student-focused, equitable, and reasonable. Current performance will be based a mixture of previous levels just prior to school closure on March 13th and levels of current work in the remote learning environment.

WPS and SEPAC School Closure FAQ

continued



Q: Will follow up meetings be needed once school resumes?

A: Follow-up meetings may not necessarily be needed once schools resumes. It is individualized and based on the student's needs. If the student transitions to the next grade/school without issue, a follow-up meeting would not be indicated. Certainly, if the family feels the need for a follow-up meeting, they should contact their student's liaison or ETL.

Q: If evaluations cannot be performed now will families be notified that they will be delayed, and will they have priority when school resumes?

A: Families should presume that evaluations will not be conducted remotely at this time. Only those evaluations, in which all of the testing was completed prior to closure, will have an eligibility Team meeting held remotely. Yes, meetings that were due just prior or during the closure will have priority when school resumes.

Q: Will kids need to be held back a grade level?

A: Whether a student is retained in a particular year is an individual decision ultimately made by the principal in consultation with service providers and the family. Should families have concerns regarding retention, they should reach out to their child's building principal.

Q: Will there be report cards and/or progress notes for the last semester of school?

A: Yes, the district is working on grading guidelines/protocols that will be disseminated to staff members and there will be special education progress reports also.



WESTFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND SPECIAL EDUCATION PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL
Special Education Services and Learning Opportunities during School Closure
Questions and Answers