

**Twinsburg City School District**  
**Guidance for Students With Disabilities**  
**COVID-19**  
**March 16, 2020**

The following guidance for Students with Disabilities (SWD) is based on information provided to us by the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) and a webinar through the United States Department of Education (USDOE) on Friday, March 13, 2020. The following agencies led the webinar:

**The Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP)**, Director Laurie VanderPloeg

**The Council of Administrators in Special Education (CASE)**, Director Phyllis Wolfram

**The National Association of Special Education Director (NASSED)**, Director John Eisenber

**The Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO)**, Director Kathleen Airhart.

Please note that the guidance we are sharing is what we know today. As we receive more information and guidance documents from the USDOE and ODE we will continually update the District website.

Also, OSEP is preparing a Guidance Document for Compliance and Timelines for SWD during the school closure for COVID-19. As soon as we received this Guidance Document we will post it on the District website.

## **Twinsburg City School District**

### **Guidance for Students with Disabilities and Students on 504 Plans**

- Students with disabilities and students on 504 Plans should be provided equal access to the curriculum during the time school is closed for COVID-19.
- IEP Teams are not required to meet in person while schools are closed.
- If an evaluation of a student with a disability requires a face-to-face assessment or observation, the evaluation would need to be delayed until school reopens.
- Evaluations and re-evaluations that do not require face-to-face assessments or observations may take place while schools are closed, so long as a student's parent or legal guardian consents.
- These same principles apply to similar activities conducted by appropriate personnel for a student with a disability who has a plan developed under Section 504, or who is being evaluated under Section 504.
- Third Quarter Progress Reports will be sent with Report Cards the week of April 6th. IEP goals must be considered when providing work for students with disabilities at home. During the closure we are not responsible for meeting the minutes reported on the IEP, but rather we must see continued growth toward the IEP goals.
- IEP teams should continue to work with parents and students with disabilities during the school closure. Intervention Specialists and Related Services should maintain continual communication with students and their families during the school closure. This communication can be through google classrooms, google hangouts, "blizzard bags" emails, and phone calls.
- Teleconferencing should be implemented for IEP meetings. Should a member of the team not be able to participate, an excusal form needs to be completed in advance of the IEP meeting.
- If you have an IEP meeting or 504 meeting during the period of school closure, please email MaryAnn Brenner (IEPs) and Marriane Lesko (504s) so they can document the scheduled meeting dates.
- In the case of an ETR, the team should consider if a complete record review is possible.
- Should the District be closed beyond the initial three (3) weeks, it will be important to review each student's IEP carefully to determine what amendments might be necessary.
- When we return from the closure all students' with disabilities IEP's will need to be reviewed.
- If serious regression occurs with a student with disabilities during the closure, even when the provided services and activities are completed at home, the IEP team may determine that compensatory services are required.
- Compensatory services will be determined by the IEP team and an amendment will be made to the IEP.

Please email Denise Traphagen at [dtraphagen@twinsburgcsd.org](mailto:dtraphagen@twinsburgcsd.org) or Monica Price at [mprice@twinsburgcsd.org](mailto:mprice@twinsburgcsd.org) with questions/concerns