



TWINSBURG CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

11136 Ravenna Road • Twinsburg OH 44087-1022
Phone 330.486.2000 • Fax 330.425.7216

Kathryn M. Powers
Superintendent

Julia Rozsnyai
Treasurer

Matt Strickland
Business Manager

Ryan Bandiera
Director of Pupil Services

Jennifer Farthing
Director of Curriculum

Belinda McKinney
Director of Human Resources

August 22, 2023

Dear Twinsburg Schools Family,

It was brought to our attention that concerns have been raised in social media today regarding accommodations related to students' Individualized Educational Plans (IEPs) and 504 Plans. The specific concern is rooted in the fact that teachers are currently unable to access students' plans online as they have done in the past and must access this information in hard copy.

I want to provide you with a little bit of history regarding this matter. During the 2022/2023 school year, several staff members piloted an online program called SameGoal. SameGoal is a platform through which students' 504 Plans or IEPs can be written and viewed. The online program was well received, thus the recommendation was made to transition from our former online program, SPS, to this new program.

Over the summer, prior to implementation of SameGoal, I asked our Board's legal counsel to review the agreement with SameGoal. Typically, our contracts are reviewed to ensure that students' privacy is secured as well as our staff members' and our District's liability. During this review of the agreement, it was found that it lacked language to address FERPA, the federal law that affords parents the right to have access to their children's education records, the right to seek to have records amended, and the right to have control over the disclosure of PII (Personally Identifiable Information). This language is necessary to protect our students' privacy.

At this point in time, the agreement is being revised through the collaboration of our Board's legal counsel and the legal counsel of NEOnet, which is the District's Information Technology Center (ITC). NEOnet provides data management and computer services to our District and the SameGoal agreement was presented to our District as a service provided through NEOnet.

Regardless of all that has transpired, I want our parents/guardians to know that your child's teacher(s) have access to hard copies of 504 Plans and IEPs through internal channels supported by our Pupil Services Department. This is important as we want to ensure that every child is supported with the accommodations they need as defined in their 504 Plan or IEP.

It is our hope that the SameGoal agreement will be revised to our expectations in the next few days so that our Board of Education can authorize its use at their September 6th meeting.

If you have any questions regarding this situation, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Kathi Powers
Superintendent

Unwavering Commitment - Unlimited Possibilities

