



UPDATED 3/30/20

Special Education Instruction/Access (Week 3: Implementation):

We are now into our week of implementation, where new learning is introduced with reasonable student expectations, tools and flexibility. At this time, general education instruction will be increased in a number of ways. We are hearing great examples of the work being done to accommodate and service students. Please take the opportunity to review the important components related to this stage of implementation. At this time, it is anticipated this plan will continue until May 1, 2020.

In moving forward, we have received considerable guidance from various sources as it relates to supporting our students during this COVID-19 school closure. New and more explicit language and clarification have been provided to guide our work.

Important Considerations:

- Due to our virtual pathway already established for all students, Forest Hills must provide educational services to students with disabilities to ensure equitable access to education and a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE). IEP Teams will continue to determine how FAPE is provided.
- It continues to be important for general education teachers to be in communication with intervention specialists, ESL teachers, gifted specialists, and reading specialists during planning to ensure we are accommodating our diverse learners.
- It has been clear that we are not able to provide special education services in the same manner they are typically provided, while also balancing health and safety. This is a time for all of us to find ways to work together and continue to serve our students.
- Communications with parents and services being provided will be documented. The intent of the tracking of services and communication will be:
 - **Focused**
 - **Consistent**
 - **Detailed**
 - **Will describe how the student is engaging**

■ **Will describe how the instruction is tailored to each student**

- Related service providers have the same expectations in terms of their contacts, service delivery, and documentation. They will also consider to the extent possible how their services can be delivered in an alternative delivery format.
- The Ohio Department of Education has indicated that districts will not be required to convene the IEP team for amendments based upon the circumstances of the COVID-19 school closure (e.g. locations/alternate service methods specific to the change to a remote learning environment). This is now in alignment with the guidance from the U.S. Department of Education.
- There was original guidance prohibiting districts from providing instruction in small group formats. When considering FERPA and privacy, FHSD will allow small group instruction in an online lesson. **Teachers and parents should be aware that it is not permissible to record the lesson or share the lesson with others, as it could violate confidentiality under IDEA and FERPA.**
- We are working to engage paraprofessionals in our remote learning plan after spring break.

Required ETR/IEP and 504 Meetings:

- We may plan to conduct our scheduled ETR meetings during the time of our closure. If pieces of the evaluation cannot be conducted because we are closed, we will need to delay the evaluation and a Prior Written Notice will be sent.
- FHSD is not required to conduct in-person ETR/IEP meetings. If an IEP, 504 or ETR is scheduled, due to expire during the closure, required members will meet via telephone conference or video conference. Excusals will need to be completed if required members are unable to participate. If a parent is unwilling or unable to meet (due to the changed meeting format), the meeting may be delayed.
- Collecting Signatures - FHSD staff will **NOT** go to parents' homes to collect. This will be offered digitally through the following ways:
 - Docu-Sign
 - Doc-hub
 - Parent downloads PDF from email, signs and scans back
 - Parents may take a photo of their signature if they do not have scanning capability.

Case Coordinators by Building:

- Ayer Elementary- Heather Hoelle at heatherhoelle@foresthills.edu
- Maddux Elementary - Heather Milligan at heathermilligan@foresthills.edu

- Mercer Elementary - Joy O'Brien at joyobrien@foresthills.edu
- Sherwood Elementary - Matt Patterson at mattpatterson@foresthills.edu
- Summit Elementary - Nicole Ward at nicoleward@foresthills.edu
- Wilson Elementary - Brian Lyons at brianlyons@foresthills.edu
- Nagel Middle School - Dawn Hensley at dawnhensley@foresthills.edu
- Anderson High School - Lauren Teuschler at laurenteuschler@foresthills.edu
- Turpin High School - Paige Haley at paigehaley@foresthills.edu
- ESC Classrooms - Emily Berry at emilyberry@foresthills.edu
- Preschool - Jody Brandon at jodybrandon@foresthills.edu
- Altercrest/Jon Peterson Scholarship Programs - Brad Early at bradleyearly@foresthills.edu

Additional special education resources are available on [FHSD Parent Resource Coordinator page](#).