



Ennis Independent School District

303 W. Knox Street
P. O. Box 1420
Ennis, TX 75120

Jennifer Nelson
Special Education Director

Telephone: 972-872-7040
jennifer.nelson@ennis.k12.tx.us

4/17/2020

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Due to the current unforeseen public health emergency, specifically the spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic, all school buildings are closed until the administration feels that it is safe to resume face-to-face school, at this time May 4, 2020. Above all else, the priority during these times remains the safety and health of the students, staff, and our community. With that being said, the state-mandated closure requires changes to the implementation of educational instruction, causing an emergency disruption to regular school-based instructional services. Until notified otherwise, all instructional services necessary for students to make progress in the general curriculum, as well as any special education supports and services necessary for a free, appropriate public education (FAPE), must be provided remotely, and in some circumstances, in a condensed manner. The movement of instruction from a physical building to electronic, telephonic, and/or videoconferencing requires a temporary alteration to your child's IEP related to the delivery of services and to the type of instruction provided.

The current public health emergency requires adaptation to how the District implements your child's current IEP. The District has summarized below the District's plan to effectively adapt the current IEP with a temporary Continuity Plan ("CP") and, absent a response from you requesting otherwise, the District will begin implementation of the adaptations until regular school-based instruction resumes. Once regular school-based instructional services resume, your child's IEP, without adaptations, will again be implemented. At such time, the District will review all data regarding student progress during the emergency to determine whether to convene an ARD committee meeting to consider compensatory services and/or extended school year services. Parents may also request an ARD meeting to consider compensatory services and/or extended school year services.

Continuity Plan

Based on virtual educational opportunities being provided to all students, guidance from federal and state agencies, the student's most recent FIE and IEP, resources available in the student's home, and the services that may have the greatest impact on ensuring progress in the goals addressed in the child's IEP, the District has identified the below-listed adaptations in services as appropriate for your child's needs while physical presence in a school building remains unavailable. The CP is not intended to operate as "stay-put" for your child, and all services as outlined in the IEP will resume, without adaptation, once physical school buildings re-open to students.



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1. The District proposes the following access to academic instruction for your child:

Online Canvas Platform/Paper-Pencil Platform

2. The District proposes to support your child's educational progress in this academic instruction by providing the following:

For Classroom Support - District chosen online learning platform will be utilized through online access; Paper-Pencil Activities offered for those that do not have internet capabilities; Teacher access via technology; Online resources provided by special education teachers which include but are not limited to emails/phone calls/texts/ Zoom type teleconferences;

For Speech and Language Support - All campus speech pathologists are working to contact students/parents that had speech therapy prior to the Covid-19 Pandemic. Therapists will consult with your child/parent/family member with various methods appropriate for your child's needs. Emails, phone contacts and text messages have been sent to all speech students as of April 13, 2020. If you have not been contacted, please email Jennifer Nelson, Special Education Director at jennifer.nelson@ennis.k12.tx.us and our special education department will answer any questions you may have regarding speech therapy.

For students served through VI (Visual Impairment) Teacher and/or AI (Auditory Impairment) Teacher, your classroom services will be through consult. Our VI provider is through Region 10 while our AI provider is through Corsicana Regional Day School for the Deaf/Hard of Hearing. Our services providers will be reaching out to our special education campus teachers for easier access to our students for academic learning.

For students participating in social skills groups in the specialized setting, the special education teacher from the campus will be in contact with social skills supports activities.

For students participating in the 18+ vocational program, the special education job skills teacher will be in contact for vocational activities.

3. The District proposes the following access to related services for your child:

Physical Therapy - If your child received physical therapy before the pandemic, they will be provided consult with our Contract Provider, Superior Pediatrics. Superior Pediatrics



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will be sending an email; please respond with the correct method of communication you prefer for your child/family.

Occupational Therapy - If your child received occupational therapy before the pandemic, they will be provided consult with our Contract Provider, Superior Pediatrics. Superior Pediatrics will be sending an email; please respond with the correct method of communication you prefer for your child/family.

Counseling/Psychological Services - If your child received counseling or psychotherapy before the pandemic, EISD special education staff will be contacting you regarding your preference of technology for sessions. please respond with the correct method of communication you prefer for your child/family.

Personal Care Services - If your child received personal care services, special education teacher will provide consult services for your child as well as answering family questions; please respond with the correct method of communication you prefer for your child/family.

School Health Services - If your child received school health services, special education teacher/staff will provide consult services for your child as well as answering family questions; please respond with the correct method of communication you prefer for your child/family.

Transportation Services - If your child received specialized transportation through special education, this service has been suspended due to Covid-19 and the stay safe rules. Once the school campuses are open for face-to-face attendance, the specialized transportation will resume.

4. The LEA proposes the following additional resources and supports for your child:

For any specialized service and support not listed, our Ennis ISD Special Education Department takes the education of each of our students very seriously. Please email the Special Education Director, Jennifer Nelson at jennifer.nelson@ennis.k12.tx.us or the Special Education Coordinator, Mandi Chapman at mandi.chapman@ennis.k12.tx.us for any questions.

Please note that once school resumes, your child's IEP will be fully implemented as written.



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You can obtain a copy of the Notice of Procedural Safeguards at the following web address: <http://framework.esc18.net/>. If you have any questions or need assistance understanding this information, do not hesitate to reach out to Jennifer Nelson, Special Education Director at jennifer.nelson@ennis.k12.tx.us. You can also obtain assistance from Region 10 Educational Service Center at <https://www.region10.org/programs/special-education-services/overview/> or the Texas Education Agency at www.tea.state.tx.us. Please see attached information regarding confidentiality.

The District appreciates your patience and flexibility as we all determine the best way to serve your student. Your input is important to the District, so please let me know if you have any questions, requested revisions, or would prefer to convene an ARD committee meeting to discuss your child's temporary CP. Otherwise, please respond to this email indicating agreement with the temporary CP.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Nelson
Director of Special Education
Ennis ISD