

August 20, 2020

Program Administrators:
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Dear Parents and Guardians of BUSD Special Education Students:

Welcome back! In the midst of these challenging times, our amazing special education professionals are looking forward to teaching your children. Communications will be forthcoming from your student's case manager. During our break, the California state legislature created and passed SB98. This new legislation has formulated the opening of school for all California students and has specific language in it regarding special education students. Please see the Special Education Town Hall presentation from August 10th on BUSD's YouTube Channel.

The special education portion of SB98 specifically states the following:

Per Education Code 56345(a)(9), this Distance Learning Emergency Plan (DLEP) provides special education, related services, and supports to the extent possible in the event of emergency conditions in which instructions, services, or both cannot be provided at the school or in person for more than 10 school days. The student's IEP informs the plan. Based on public health guidance, the instruction may, at times, be entirely remote (i.e., teacher and students in different locations) or a combination of remote and in-person.

Case managers will be sending to you the following documents within the first weeks of school:

- BUSD Distance Learning Emergency Plan (DLEP)
- Prior Written Notice regarding SB98 & Distance Learning
- Procedural Safeguards
- Frequently asked Questions with Responses

The Distance Learning Emergency Plan (DLEP) provides detailed information regarding your child's services and schedules to access and receive their services. It is tailored based upon their individual needs. It will be a document providing information on each service and their delivery via distance learning. This work will require coordination between the case manager and related service providers. There will also be coordination with the general education teachers to ensure that to the greatest extent possible we are creating inclusivity while also providing much needed intervention.

The first couple weeks of school have been set aside for family engagement for all students. This is a time for the special education teachers to create these plans and collaborate and coordinate with providers. Their full special education schedule will ramp up in the first weeks of school.

Elementary service providers will be using SeeSaw for all classes, TK-2 and Google Classroom for all classes, Grades 3-12. In time, all special education service materials will be posted on these platforms, but this may take a few weeks as our service providers navigate the systems and we ask for your patience.

Some of you may have open assessment plans, and are awaiting information about how this assessment will be completed. Please know that we are securing an equitable plan to finish these assessments; however, it is challenging as our district staff cannot interface in person with students.

We understand the challenges during this historical period and the related pressures on families. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to your student's IEP team.

Sincerely,

Shawn Mansager

Executive Director of Special Education