



Dear BRCPS Families,

I hope you are all doing well and trying to stay safe and healthy during these challenging times. I know you have received information from your children's teachers, providers, and directors, but I also wanted to reach out to share some updated information related to special education and related services.

As Boston Renaissance continues to ensure that each student is receiving appropriate educational services through remote learning, the Unified Student Services Department is committed to continually providing equitable services and support for our students with disabilities and English language learners. We would like to communicate with you how we will be offering remote learning services to our students and maintain communication with families and students during these challenging times. We will aim to provide these services through a variety of modes in order to support our students' needs.

These *could* include but are not limited to:

- Online and downloadable resources provided through online platforms (Lower School Remote Learning Hub, Google classrooms for Upper School students)
- Links to WGBH lessons on TV, YouTube channels, apps, etc.)
- Pre-Scheduled online interactive lessons and meetings
- Pre-recorded lessons
- Telephone check-ins from staff

Academic Services for Students with Disabilities:

As the general education teachers continue to provide remote educational services for students, BRCPS's Special Education Teachers will continue to provide and share resources for students who require these modifications and/or accommodations. The work provided would be modified according to the student's needs, so they can access virtual learning and resources that are appropriate for their individual learning needs. Please consult the Lower School Remote Learning Sites for grades K-2 and Google Classroom sections for Grades 3-6. In addition, the teachers will be available via email and will establish scheduled office hours so that they can provide support remotely for students with IEP/504 services. Please feel free to reach out to your child's Special Education teacher and/or direct service provider for additional support.

Related Services for Students with IEPs/504:

BRCPS's related service providers (Speech and Language Therapists, Occupational Therapists, Physical Therapists), and Mental Health providers (Counseling team) will be providing IEP/504 services to students at least once a week via the online remote mediums established by BRCPS. These services may be delivered in the following formats: **step-by-step recorded videos of activities, movement opportunities through video resources, and/or telephone or virtual calls with students.** We are tracking the provision of these services in order to ensure that students are supported to the best of our abilities while school is closed.

Although it will be challenging to provide the same level of support as they do at school, service providers will be available through established office hours to provide you with guidance on how you can support your child in these areas. They will also establish a weekly time to communicate with your child about what they can do at home to practice specific skills. Be reminded that these services may appear in the above-mentioned formats.

While upholding and maintaining confidentiality our related service providers (Speech, Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy, the Mental Health Team) are creating and sharing resources to benefit students needs through our remote learning platforms. Access to all related service resources is available via the Lower school remote learning Hub and the Upper school Google classroom platform.

Academic Services for English Language Learners:

As the general education and special education teachers continue to provide remote educational services for students, BRCPS's English as a Second Language (ESL) teachers will continue to provide and share resources for all English Language learners as well. These services will be provided through collaborations with the students' homeroom teachers utilizing the established online platforms. These platforms may look different for your child who is in Lower School and/or Upper School. Please consult the Lower School Remote Learning hub for grades K-2 and Google Classroom sections for Grades 3-6. In addition, ESL teachers will be available via email and will establish office hours in order to provide support remotely for English Language Learners. Please feel free to reach out to your child's ESL teacher for additional support.

Virtual IEP meetings:

IEP Teams are not required to meet while schools are closed. However, parents/guardians, and IEP team members may agree to conduct IEP meetings through alternate means, including videoconferencing or conference telephone calls. 34 C.F.R. §300.328.

The Special Education Department at BRCPS will be moving forward with holding IEP annual review meetings and 3 year re-evaluation meetings for those student's whose evaluations were completed prior to the closer of school. If the evaluation was not completed and requires a face-to-face assessment or observation, the evaluation would need to be delayed until school reopens and any previously scheduled meetings will need to be cancelled and rescheduled.

With parent/guardian consent, evaluations and reevaluations that do not require face-to-face assessments or observations will take place while schools are closed.

BRCPS Special Education Team Facilitator and 504 coordinator will be reaching out to families who are impacted by this and we are working to set up phone or video conferences in order to maintain regular IEP timelines to the best of our ability

While we continue to check each week for updated information and guidance from DESE and the US DOE. Here are some additional specifics:

What happens if my child's IEP expires while school is closed?

Current IEPs will remain in effect until a new IEP is developed, irrespective of the expired date reflected in the IEP forms.

What do I do if I have an IEP meeting schedule while school is closed?

IEP Teams are not required to meet while schools are closed. However, parents/guardians, and IEP team members may agree to conduct IEP meetings through alternate means, including videoconferencing or conference telephone calls. 34 C.F.R. §300.328.

What happens if my child was being evaluated before school closed?

DESE recognizes that school closures may impact the ability of school districts to meet the 30-day timeline for conduct evaluations in addition to the 45 school working day timeline to develop an IEP after receipt of a parent's written consent to evaluation or reevaluation. (603 CMR 28.04(2) and 603 CMR 28.05(1).) Therefore if the evaluation was completed before BRCPS closed, the team has been asked to complete the write up of the reports.

If the evaluation was not completed and requires a face-to-face assessment or observation, the evaluation would need to be delayed until school reopens and any previously scheduled meetings will need to be cancelled and rescheduled.

Please see the following documents that provide further information and guidance for schools:

- [Office of Special Education Programs \(OSEP\) Q & As](#)
- [Massachusetts Department and Elementary Secondary Education Information and Resources](#)

As a school community, and Special Education Department, we will continue to re-examine our practices and adjust our approaches to our remote learning, as well as continuously communicate with families to directly impact student learning and growth. We appreciate your patience and support during these challenging times. If you have additional or specific questions, please reach out to me.

Stay safe and Healthy,

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Office hours Monday-Friday 9am-4pm