



**Athol-Royalston Office of Pupil Personnel**

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To: Families of Students with Disabilities  
From: ARRSD Pupil Services Department  
Date: April 22, 2020

Dear Families,

I hope this note finds you all well, healthy and enjoying a well-deserved break from school expectations this week! We are living through historic times and as teachers share their stories of the resilience and dedication of our ARRSD families, I feel hopeful that we will emerge from this stronger than ever. Nevertheless, I am sure these are unsettling times, especially for our most vulnerable students and I hope that these communications can answer some of your questions. Above it all, the pupil services department cares deeply for you and our students and we are doing our best to help keep things as “normal” as possible for you and your children.

As I am sure you know by now, remote learning and services do not quite look the same as they would if school were fully operational. However, you should be getting regular communication from your child’s teachers and/or related service providers and have an understanding of the remote learning plan for your child’s services during the closure. If you are not fully aware of how your child is receiving services, please reach out with questions.

Recently, you may have begun to hear from your special education liaison about the possibility of virtual IEP team meetings. While these are not required by the state, we recognize that some meetings can and should be held remotely. Your liaison is reviewing his/her meeting schedule and deciding, with you, on a case-by-case basis whether or not a remote meeting makes sense. You have the right to ask that a meeting not be held remotely and that we wait until we are able to hold face-to-face meetings. Just let your liaison know your wishes. Stay put rules apply should the IEP expire before your team is able to meet.

I know many of you are concerned about regression and what skills your child may lose during this closure. We, too, think about this and that is why we are providing remote learning opportunities to help students retain and expand upon the content they have already learned this year. During this time of closures, FAPE, (Free and Appropriate Public Education) looks different, but your special education team is working to provide accommodations, modifications and instruction in a variety of remote formats to execute FAPE as best as we can. When we

return to school, your IEP team will work with your child and you to determine whether or not additional, or different, services are required.

We are in unconventional times and we understand families have stressors to manage every day and that helping your children at home is only one of your daily responsibilities. Our goal is to support you and your child, so please talk with your liaison, develop a schedule and plan that is going to work for you and your child. We are thinking of you, wishing you well!

On a very personal note, I want to share some news. I have been offered a position as a superintendent in another state. This has been a personal and professional goal of mine for some time and so my last day at ARRSD will be June 15, 2020. I have been honored to have worked with you, your children and the phenomenal teachers and staff these last three years. The work we have done together has been meaningful and I am proud of what we have accomplished.

Take good care,

*Kate*

Kathryn Clark, Pupil Services Director