



EAST LYME PUBLIC SCHOOLS

P.O. Box 220 • East Lyme, Connecticut 06333 •
(860) 739-3966 • Fax (860) 739-1215

Jeffrey R. Newton
Superintendent of Schools

Amy Drowne
*Assistant Superintendent of
Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment*

Kimberly Davis
*Director of
Student Services*

Maryanna Stevens, CPA
*Director of Finance, Marketing,
And Growth Management*

April 6, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As students enter the second week of learning from home, I hope you have begun to find a routine and to adjust to this new style of instruction. The Student Services department of East Lyme Public Schools is committed to maintaining the individual focus in each student's IEP and 504 plan. To that end, the next phase of learning from home is being developed.

This week we have asked special education teachers and related service providers to:

1. Call/email to review instructional priorities of the IEP/504 plan with parents
2. Ask you some questions related to service delivery options such as pre-recorded lessons, the possible use of video conferencing, your child's independence, use of technology and need for possible parent support during a lesson
3. Provide a follow-up email to confirm any changes to your child's schedule of instructional activities with target dates of implementation.

As instructional delivery evolves, there are bound to be issues. Please remember that the district staff is here to support you and your child, be it with technology, your child's routine and engagement with schoolwork, or their social and emotional needs. If you have any concerns related to having your child involved in video conferencing, you may opt out of that potential service, and our staff will continue to send home other activities that meet your child's needs. Your building principal is a resource for answers to your questions, as am I. I can be reached at Kimberly.davis@elpsk12.org.

Our staff is eager to talk with students and see their smiling faces again.

I have attached 2 resources that I hope you will find helpful.

Sincerely,
Kimberly Davis
Kimberly.davis@elpsk12.org



What Do Families Need Right NOW?

How Can School Districts Best Support Families Of Children With IEP's Or 504 Plans?

- Have a familiar staff member reach out to families now, even if you do not have a finalized plan, it is important to stay connected.
- Involve parents in the planning process and ask if they have priority areas or ideas.
- Be realistic with the family and ask about specific challenges they are facing now. Offer guidance and support.
- Recognize the focus of learning may need to shift at first to establishing new routines, addressing challenging behaviors. Provide support and understanding of their situation.
- Be patient with their ability to help their children keep up with their work, they may also be trying to balance work-at-home and teaching-at-home. If assignments are not in on time, ask why.
- Families are having trouble accessing Google Classroom and other platforms for a variety of reasons. Make sure the family has passwords, directions for accessing the app or website, and the technology they need to be able to participate in the learning being designed.
- Share resources for connecting with other families dealing with similar circumstances, while maintaining confidentiality. A list of resources is provided later in this document.
- Make available the physical supports the child may use daily such as visuals, tools, token economy, visual schedule, manipulatives, white boards, etc. Make sure parents know how and when to use the tools.

EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION AND COLLABORATION:

Families need to hear from their child's team. The student's case manager and other related service professionals hold a wealth of information about their child's learning that families may not know. This connection would be much more valuable BEFORE finalizing a plan, as the child's needs at home may look very different than in the classroom.

Communicate in a way that is transparent, frequent, responsive and individualized for their child's needs. Do your parents know....

- How do I help my child to learn?
- With whom and when will I connect?
- How do I reach them if there is a question, issue or concern?
- What accommodations or modifications are needed and when?

Communicate clear expectations for parents and district staff

- What is a priority?
- Will data be taken?
- Who does what and how?
- Is my child being graded?

4-6-2020





Connecticut State Department of Education Professional Support Series for Families

Please see below and join as we learn together and grow together.

March 30, 2020

Social Emotional Support for Students

Family Tips: Providing Social and Emotional Support to Children for COVID-19

Families are the first line of defense in reassuring children during this time of uncertainty. Children will look to family members for support and how to react to stressful events. This webinar will support families in talking with children about their fears and help reduce anxiety through these discussion points: discussing COVID-19 with children and responding to their fears and anxiety; ensuring developmental-appropriate responses and information, especially on safety; recognizing your own anxiety and fears; and focusing on family activities (examples and resources will be available).



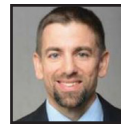
Presenter: Kim Traverso, Education Consultant, CSDE

Recorded Session Available: April 2 at [CSDE Professional Support Series for Families](#)

Supporting Students with Special Needs

Resources and Supports for families during the COVID-19 Pandemic

The CT State Department of Education and the Connecticut Parent Advocacy Center (CPAC) are collaborating to provide guidance and support for families of children and young adults with special needs. During this recorded session, we will share information and resources to support student learning in the home.



Presenters: Bryan Klimkiewicz, Special Education Division Director, CSDE; Jane Hampton Smith, CPAC Executive Director

Recorded Session Available: April 1 at [CSDE Professional Support Series for Families](#)

English Learners and Continuation of Education

Resources for Learning at Home

Parents and family members, check out this video to learn about free, online resources that you can use with your children at home during this period of class cancellations. You can use these resources to help your child continue to learn English and home language, develop literacy and math skills, and get them ready for college and careers, while also supporting their socio-emotional needs.

Recursos para Aprender en Casa

Padres y familiares, echa un vistazo a este video para aprender acerca de los recursos gratuitos en línea que puedes usar con tus hijos en casa durante este período de cancelaciones de clase. Usted puede usar estos recursos para ayudar a su hijo a seguir aprendiendo inglés con su idioma hablado en su casa, desarrollar habilidades literarios y matemáticas, prepararlos para la universidad y las carreras, al mismo tiempo que apoya sus necesidades socioemocionales.



Presenters: Megan Alubicki-Flick, Education Consultant, CSDE; and Gladys Labas, Director of Equity and Language, CSDE

Recorded Session Available: April 5 at [CSDE Professional Support Series for Families](#)

Early Childhood

Families and early childhood professionals check out the video on what distance learning means for young children. This video will feature a brief discussion with staff from the CT State Department of Education and the CT Office of Early Childhood (OEC) about supporting young learners through distance learning and the importance of play and predictability. Resources for families and early childhood professions will be part of the discussion.



Presenters: Andrea Brinnel, Consultant, CSDE; Michelle Levy, Consultant, OEC

Recorded Session Available: April 2 at [CSDE Professional Support Series for Families](#)

Direct Support Resources For Families:

As the Parent Training and Information Center for Connecticut, CPAC asks you to help us to let all of your families know that we are here to support them. Families really benefit when they connect with other families who understand what they are experiencing. For many parents of children with an IEP, school closure due to COVID-19 is very stressful. Having to navigate the volume of available information can create more anxiety. There is so much new information that some parents may have a hard time processing what is true and where to start. Also, as most of the information available is online, the parents who don't have access to technology may call our number and ask to review online resources. When you talk or email a parent, we would ask if you could share these resources with them:

Call for Individual Support

Our Parent Consultants are available to take your calls and will do their best to return calls within 48 hours. Contact us by email at cpac@cpacinc.org, or call us at (860) 739-3089.

Meetings, Calls, and Workshops

Reach Out Virtual Meeting (English): Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10:00 a.m.
Register [here](#). (After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.) Or join us on Facebook Live on the CPAC Facebook page.

CPAC en Español - Parent Support Call in Spanish: Monday-Friday at 1:00 p.m.
Únete a la reunión de [Zoom](#). Marcar por Ubicación +16465588656 Meeting ID: 902254780#. Or join us on Facebook Live on the CPAC en Español Facebook Group.

CPAC en Español - Workshops in Spanish: Wednesdays at 4:00 p.m.
Únete a la reunión de [Zoom](#) Marcar por Ubicación +16465588656 Meeting ID: 742877516#. Or join us on Facebook Live on the CPAC en Español Facebook Group.

All meetings, calls, and workshops will be recorded and posted on our YouTube channel.

Find us on the Web and Social Media:

Visit our [website](#) for updates and resources.

[CPAC Facebook Page](#) You do NOT need to be a Facebook user to access this information

Join our Facebook Groups: You DO need to be a Facebook user
CPAC Resources & Supports, CPAC en Español, CT Secondary Transition Youth Advisory Board, and Secondary Transition Resources and Support –

[CPAC Instagram](#) [CPAC You Tube](#) [CPAC Twitter](#) [CPAC Pinterest](#)

Follow our Board titled COVID19 and Special Education Information and Resources [here](#).

4-6-2020

