



THE SCHOOL BOARD OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA

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**The School Board of
Broward County, Florida**

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April 6, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians of a Student with a Disability:

To protect our students and our community, Education Commissioner, Richard Corcoran, closed all public schools until May 1, 2020 and has announced that all Florida students must begin distance learning by March 30, 2020. The closure date is subject to change and may be extended. Special education and related service providers are not able to conduct in-person services in a manner that complies with current safety protocols to protect the health and safety of both students and staff. This is in alignment with guidance provided by the Center for Disease Control (CDC), along with the United States Department of Education (USDOE) and the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE).

Pursuant to a *Memorandum of Understanding* signed by the Broward Teachers Union and The School Board on March 17, 2020, Broward County Public School teachers will be available for office hours to allow for teacher interaction via email, telephone, or through Canvas, no less than three (3) hours per day during their regular work hours.

If you are receiving this letter, your child is a student with a disability that has an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) that provides your child with special education and related services. Due to the mandatory closure of school campuses, all students, including students with disabilities, will be participating in distance learning. District and school staff are working diligently to provide distance learning opportunities for all students. This change to the delivery and intensity of services is not a change in placement as defined by IDEA; rather, this change is out of necessity due to the international health crisis and applies to all students.

Member(s) of your child's IEP team will be reaching out and working with you to develop a Temporary Distance Educational Plan for your child. Please collaborate with these individuals, express concerns or needs that you may have regarding the educational needs of your child, and work collaboratively to ensure that learning never closes. Any specific concerns that you have should be directed to your child's teacher(s), ESE Specialist and/or building administrator.

This temporary plan is only in effect during the time school is closed due to COVID-19. Upon your child's return to his/her physical school location, the temporary plan will automatically expire and cease to operate, and your child's IEP will operate as normal.



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Temporary Distance Learning Letter
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Please remember that you always have access to your child's IEP through the EdPlan Connect Parent Portal email that you received. If you have not received an email with the link to access your child's IEP, please contact the ESE Specialist at your child's school to verify the email address on file for you and to have another EdPlan Connect Parent Portal link sent.

Below are links to online resources:

Parent Instructions for Distance learning:

<https://news.browardschools.com/cms/lib/FL50000611/Centricity/Domain/4/Parent%20Instructions%20for%20Distance%20Learning%203-24-20%201.pdf>

Learning Never Closes:

<https://www.browardschools.com/learningnevercloses>

Please be assured that our teachers will continue to provide students with flexibility, compassion, and understanding as high-quality remote instruction is implemented.

Sincerely,

Daniel F. Gohl, Chief Academic Officer