



Pupil Personnel Services

36 Gordons Corner Road
Manalapan, NJ 07726-3758
(732) 786-2750
Fax: (732) 786-2751

John J. Marciano Jr., Ph.D.
Superintendent
jmarciano@mersnj.us

Georgianna Petillo, M.A.
Director
gpetillo@mersnj.us

Cindy Cimino, Asst. Director
ccimino@mersnj.us

July 24, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians of students with IEPs and 504 plans,

I hope this letter finds you and your loved ones healthy and well during this pandemic. This letter is written specifically for parents of students who have either an IEP or 504 plan. The goal is to provide you with additional information in regards to how the proposed opening of school will impact your child's individualized education program (IEP) or 504 plan. First, the district is in the process of finalizing the schedule and procedures that pertain to the guidelines set forth by the CDC. More information will be available in the next few weeks. However, at this time I can provide information in the following areas:

1. If you found a specific format of instruction that was beneficial for your child during virtual learning, write a letter to your school principal. This information will be shared with your child's teacher prior to the first day of school.
2. Our focus is on Social Emotional Learning (SEL). Guidance counselors as well as child study team members are working on defining how we are going to provide the needed support for our students to manage their emotions as well as perceptions of our "new world".
3. District committees have been formed to address many of the issues we are currently facing. At this point, no final decisions have been made. However, it is important that you know parents of students who are classified and have 504 plans are on these committees and are actively involved.
 - a. There is a committee specifically composed of special education and 504 parents focusing on how the district plan will impact the delivery of a free and appropriate public education for our students with an IEP and 504 plan.
4. Synchronous instruction will be part of the virtual day. Students will also have the opportunity to work with their teachers through direct instruction virtually.
5. There are child study team members available to address your concerns during the summer. Please write a letter to 36 Gordons Corner Road or fax to 732-786-2751. Alternatively, you can email your concerns to me gpetillo@mersnj.us and a case manager will contact you.

6. The district has every intention of implementing IEPs as they are written as long as they are in accordance with the school schedule and we are able to maintain the requirements set forth by the CDC. The link is below:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/schools.html>
7. Once the plan developed by the district with input from the committee members and Board of Education is finalized, you will receive a letter from me with additional information regarding how we are going to address IEPs that were written for a school environment but are now being implemented virtually or in a hybrid environment.

It is important that you know the district has a vested interest in the progress of your child. We have strict parameters that interfere directly with the implementation of some IEPs, we are going to work with you to provide your child a free and appropriate public education while adhering to the mandates set before us. I hope this letter provides you with the additional information necessary to complete the survey Dr. Marciante sent you in regard to your child attending the hybrid model or virtual model. My goal is to keep you informed as we progress through this pandemic. We are all in this together.

Sincerely,

Georgianna Petillo

Georgianna Petillo