

April 9, 2020

Agenda Item: Supported Education Report

Item VIA3b

Purpose of this Agenda Item: Informational

COVID -19 Closure Update Edition

Special Education in the time of Covid-19 school closure.

With the Oregon Department of Education continuing to fund districts, the expectation is that districts deliver on the promise of Distance Learning for All during this crisis. Special education services shall continue to operate, to the extent practical. ODE has asked that districts complete a plan by April 13<sup>th</sup> and proceed to deliver services remotely on that same date. For most students on an IEP, these services will be delivered in conjunction with the distance learning option the building and level have chosen, and we won't need to make changes to the IEP, and placement won't change. For some students with more complex service needs, I have asked our case-managers to reach out and offer a virtual IEP meeting to discuss what goals make the most sense to focus on with remote services during this closure. We can amend the IEP virtually (with parent consent to participate and sign via electronic means), and monitor progress. Teams will address service needs as best as possible.

The legal compliance aspects are complex. The USDOE and ODE have signaled maximum flexibility with these compliance issues and we are prioritizing meeting the compliance to the IDEA to the extent practical.

Celebrations:

Your Principals, Teachers, Specialists, Nursing Staff, Instructional Assistants, School Psychologists, Motor Team, Secretaries, Office Managers, Facility Staff, Tech Experts all stand ready and actively working/ thinking around the clock on how to best ease the burden and provide continued services to support families to the extent possible during this crisis.

Nursing:

Our district Nurse team has been instrumental in efforts to understand, prepare and communicate during this crisis. Since the closure they are behind the scenes standing at the ready, yet continue to improve systems by streamlining file systems and aligning procedural guidance/ documents.

Staffing:

The MES Speech Language Pathologist position has been filled with a contractor, who will be delivering teletherapy with the rest of the speech pathologists to the children at MES.

Compliance/ Complaints/ Due Process:

There are many complexities around compliance on timelines under the IDEA (annual IEP meetings, evaluations, child-find, etc.). We are working with our attorney, other directors/districts

and state level leadership to calibrate our process/ procedures in order to meet the compliance standards, to the extent practical given this situation.

Program Improvement:

The focus at this time is basic service delivery

Community Outreach:

Family communication is ongoing with an attorney-approved letter (on procedures) set to go out on our plan for sped services with the new guidance from ODE targeting April 6<sup>th</sup>.

Trillium Counseling Services:

Trillium Family Services continues to provide services during this closure. Our school based therapist has continued to connect with families and children through teletherapy. Tessa Potter, our prevention specialist, has been connecting with families who were seen by Grace (the school based therapist who left in December). Tessa has also joined the effort of making phone calls to families to assess their digital accessibility for distance learning.

Outplacements:

**LEEP:** Life Enrichment Education Program is for students with significant cognitive and multiple disabilities, located in classrooms throughout the county. Cost: part of our menu of services from ESD paid for out of flow-through dollars as one of our menu of services provided.

**Heron Creek Therapeutic:** Located at the Eastham school in Oregon City, this is a therapeutic environment for students who have significant emotional problems and need a smaller setting and focused instruction on building self-regulation skills in order to come back to district.

**Heron Creek Behavior:** Located at the Youth Villages campus off of Clackamas River Drive, this setting is for students with significant behavioral disturbances that impact their access to learning. This is a highly structured setting and focused on self-regulation and behavioral supports.

**Four Corners School:** A therapeutic school operated by MESD located in East Multnomah County. One student who has moved into district is continuing placement as Heron Creek has a waitlist.

	LEEP	Heron Creek Therapeutic	Heron Creek Behavior	Four Corner School
December	10	7	4	
January	10	7	4	
February	10	8	4	1
March	10	6	4	1
April	10	4	3	1

Respectfully Submitted by: Michael Salitore

