Memorandum

To: District Contact Personnel
From: Gina Reilly
Date: April 16, 2020
Re: ESBOCES Special Education Instructional Plan Update

I hope this correspondence finds you well. As we near the end of the fifth week in our new educational world, I felt that I should provide you with an update on the work that the Special Education Department at Eastern Suffolk BOCES has been involved in. First and foremost, I wanted to assure you that all of our students are receiving their State mandated IEP services. If we have been unable to reach any students, or if any student is unable to participate in their educational services, districts have already been notified of these circumstances. Some examples of how students are accessing their education include:

- Our teachers and related service staff are providing direct instruction utilizing FaceTime, telephone calls, iPad applications, Google Suite (docs, classroom, slides), Zoom, Microsoft Office, Nearpod, Boardmaker, News-O-Matic, ULS, Boom Cards, Pearson ebooks, LessonPix, Newsela, Khan Academy, Edgenuity and many, many more programs.
- In the last fourteen days, Google domain has hosted over 572 active classrooms, shared 47,679 files and posted over 1200 videos; Nearpod has 276 teacher accounts with 3,665 students that have joined sessions and Boardmaker has 545 students that have joined sessions as well.
- Paper packets have been mailed or transported home to our students that prefer this method of instruction. Our teachers continue to provide ongoing support to students with completion of their assignments via email and telephone, as well as with videoconferencing apps.
- Our support staff, including teaching assistants and special education aides, reach out to students and their families almost daily to lend both academic and social emotional support.
- Related service providers have established schedules and are providing virtual services to our students. Such providers include; counseling, hearing, speech, occupational therapy, physical therapy, vision, Home ABA and Parent Training.
- We have supported instruction by sending home 15 Chromebooks and 595 iPads to support our students with instruction. We have worked with families to secure internet services, if needed.
- We continue to support instruction by sending home needed supplies and equipment. We have a transportation system in place to deliver needed items home to our students when equipment cannot be mailed.
• Our website, under Special Education, continues to be updated daily with resources for our students and families.
• Our instructional buildings remain open on Monday and Wednesday from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. to allow staff access to prepare lessons and instructional materials.
• We continue our team meetings virtually to discuss student needs and progress.
• Our staff is participating in Annual Reviews and CSE meetings virtually.
• All instructional staff continues to collect data related to attendance, participation, grades, social/emotional, behavioral data and progress toward IEP goals.
• Our instructional staff continues to take professional development to assist with innovative methods to deliver instruction.
• We continue to review admissions packets for this school year, as well as summer services.
• Eastern Suffolk BOCES continues to stay current on all NYSED, legislative and legal guidance directives.
• Eastern Suffolk BOCES continues to offer breakfast and lunch programs, similar to many component districts. Currently, we are supplying meals to over 400 students. The majority of these meals are being transported to students’ homes.

It continues to be our priority to meet both the social-emotional and academic needs of your students. We will continue to make every effort to provide quality services and to communicate our progress regularly. Please stay safe and healthy during these unprecedented times. I look forward to our continued work together.

c: Julie Davis Lutz
Peggie Staib