



# Ipswich Public Schools

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**DR. BEVERLY HEGEDUS**  
**DIRECTOR OF PUPIL PERSONNEL SERVICES**

March 19, 2020

Dear Parents with Children Receiving Special Education Services,

Happy Spring! Hopefully you all are finding opportunities for positives and normalcy with your children in this time of uncertainty and disruption.

I am writing to keep you updated regarding the most current information available from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) in regard to special education supports during the school closures. I will likely be updating you regularly because the situation is fluid, and recommendations from DESE have in some cases already been modified because of public safety mandates.

During the past few days, I have participated in several Zoom conferences with DESE regarding educational support during the school closure period. DESE's current standard is that, at least for the initial 3-week closure, districts provide online learning supports to all students (both general and special education), rather than actual services. This means posting resources accessible at home. We all realize that this is no substitute for the services your children have been receiving from special educators and related service providers, but it is the current DESE guidance for the short term.

I also want to clarify your family's access to resources posted on the Ipswich Public Schools learning extensions link which Dr. Blake launched yesterday. We have specifically not segregated students with disabilities in this resource because we recognize your children as a part of the general education learning environment. Since few students have the same abilities in all areas, we encourage you to examine the learning extensions at a variety of grade levels, with the thought that your student may benefit from trying some suggestions in one grade level, and some in another. If you have questions regarding the appropriateness of resources, please reach out to your child's special education liaison, or email the liaison for suggestions. The special education teachers have contributed to these resources, so they should be able to direct you to appropriate activities to maintain your child's learning engagement.

Also, though not required, you may find your children's special education staff contacting you in order to maintain communication and to expand learning options for your child. Separate from the extended learning Google classroom, some related service providers and special education teachers may already have Google classroom sites or will invite your child to special education learning accounts. These are not to be interpreted as mandated or as virtual learning, but are simply a way of sharing resources with you and helping your child to remain engaged in learning.

Please also feel free to reach out to staff for consultation and ideas. Since many staff members have families of their own at home, they may not always be able to respond immediately, but we have encouraged them to reply within a reasonable time frame.

Thank you for collaborating with us during this challenging time. Please check regularly on the PPS homepage. I will plan to keep you updated regarding any changes recommended by DESE.

Sincerely,

Beverly H. Hegedus, Ed.D.  
PPS Director