



Dear Parent:

The purpose of this letter is to provide written notice of the School District of Philadelphia's interim plan for special education and related services during the period of mandated school closure in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. As you are aware, public schools were ordered to close due to the pandemic health concern of COVID-19 as of March 16, 2020. While the Governor initially closed schools through March 27, then extended the closure through at least April 6, 2020, he has now suspended normal school operations for the remainder of the school year. From the initial closure order, through each extension, the School District has been working to adapt and develop strategies to address the needs of all of our students. This work is ongoing.

Due to the closure of our schools and mandatory public health measures such as social distancing, it may not be possible to implement your child's Individualized Education Program (IEP) as it is currently written notwithstanding our good faith efforts. We encourage you to review the District's Continuity of Education Plan, which describes the School District's steps to provide educational opportunities for your child under the current extraordinary circumstances. At this time, this includes the District's good faith effort to support students with IEPs in an appropriate manner that reflects the unforeseeable emergency circumstances confronting school districts and families across the country. This Plan, which may be periodically updated, is intended to apply during the suspension of normal school operations. It does not replace your child's current IEP, which will resume or be modified after the mandated closure is lifted on a time frame aligned with federal and state law and guidance.

The Plan is posted on the School District's website. You can open it on your smartphone, a home computer, or a District-issued Chromebook loaned to your child. The Plan will be implemented in phases with Planned instruction beginning May 4. As time goes on, we hope that teachers, students and families become more accustomed to distance learning and the use of Chromebooks. With additional experience and capabilities, the District may be able to further supplement strategies for enrichment, review, and instruction. It will be important for you to check the Plan periodically for any updates.



### Who to Contact When You Need Help

- **General Questions:** call (215) 400-5300 or email [covid19info@philasd.org](mailto:covid19info@philasd.org)
- **Grades, Credit, Assignments and Feedback:** reach out to your child's counselor or teacher. Visit the school's website to receive contact information.
- **Frequently Asked Questions:** check out answers and other updates at <https://www.philasd.org/coronavirus/>.
- **Technology-related Problem or Issue:** call the Parent & Family Technology Support Hotline at (215) 400-4444 or email [FamilyTechSupport@philasd.org](mailto:FamilyTechSupport@philasd.org).
- **Social-emotional or Health Concern:** reach out to your child's counselor or nurse. Visit the school's website to receive contact information.
- **Receive Updates:** Join Dr. Hite @PhillySchools Facebook live events every Wednesday at 3:00 pm where he shares updates on our COE plan.

We know that an extended closure will require additional support for students, families, and staff as it relates to the learning that should occur during the rest of the school year. The School District is continuing its work to develop a combination of supports that will include review and enrichment as well as planned instruction for children with IEPs, consistent with guidance issued by the PA and U.S. Departments of Education affording public schools flexibility in these unique circumstances.

Throughout this time, we encourage you to maintain contact with your child's IEP team. If you have not heard from your child's classroom teacher, special education teacher, or another member of your child's IEP team, you should reach out to them with questions, concerns, or requests for assistance. If you cannot reach them or they do not respond, please call the hotline (numbers listed below) so the District can make sure you are contacted. We appreciate your patience, partnership, and flexibility as we navigate this process together.



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## Hotlines

**English 215-400-5300**

Hotline, for Help with Learning Guides and General Questions

**SHQIP (Albanian) 215-400-8480**

Linja telefonike për Udhëzuesin Ndhmues të mësimit dhe pyetje të përgjithshme gjatë periudhës së mbylljes së shkollave

**عربي (Arabic) 215-400-8481**

الخط الساخن للمساعدة في دليل التعلم والأسئلة العامة أثناء الإغلاق

**汉语 (Chinese) 215-400-8482**

学习指南及学校关闭期间一般性问题热线电话

**Español (Spanish) 215-400-8489**

Línea directa para ayuda con guías de estudio y preguntas generales durante el cierre

**Français (French) 215-400-8483**

La hotline pour l'assistance au guide d'apprentissage et questions générales pendant la fermeture

**ខ្មែរ (Khmer) 215-400-8484**

លេខទូរស័ព្ទសំខាន់សម្រាប់ ការណែនាំអំពីការសិក្សា និង សំណួរទូទៅ

ក្នុងខណៈពេលដែលសាលាត្រូវបិទ

**Português (Portuguese) 215-400-8474**

Linha Direta de Apoio ao Guia de Aprendizagem e Perguntas Gerais durante o fechamento

**Русский (Russian) 215-400-8485**

Горячая линия для помощи при работе с Учебными пособиями и для Основных вопросов на период закрытия школ

**Việt (Vietnamese) 215-400-8486**

Đường Dây Nóng Trợ Giúp Cho Hướng Dẫn Học Tập Và Thắc Mắc Chung Trong Khi Trường Đóng Cửa