



## WHITE PLAINS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

EDUCATION HOUSE  
FIVE HOMESIDE LANE  
WHITE PLAINS, NEW YORK 10605  
914-422-2000  
[www.wpcsd.k12.ny.us](http://www.wpcsd.k12.ny.us)

DEBORAH AUGARTEN  
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION  
AND PUPIL PERSONNEL SERVICES  
[DEBORAHUGARTEN@WPCSD.K12.NY.US](mailto:DEBORAHUGARTEN@WPCSD.K12.NY.US)  
914-422-2034

April 10, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

In its guidance document, entitled “Provision of Services to Students with Disabilities During Statewide School Closures Due to Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Outbreak in New York State,” dated March 27, 2020, the New York State Education Department (“NYSED”) stated, “NYSED will allow school districts as much flexibility as federal and State laws and regulations allow in determining how FAPE is to be provided during the Coronavirus outbreak and [it] will continue to seek further guidance regarding additional flexibility during this pandemic.” In particular, NYSED explained in the document as follows:

School districts must ensure that, to the greatest extent possible, each student with a disability can be provided the special education and related services identified in the student’s individualized education program (IEP). However, FAPE may be provided consistent with the need to protect the health and safety of students with disabilities and those individuals providing special education and related services to students. During this emergency, schools may not be able to provide all services in the same manner they are typically provided.

With that said, the District will provide special education and related services to the greatest extent possible through a combination of synchronous/asynchronous/web-based platform(s).

Synchronous special education and related services are provided by the District remotely through Distance Instruction/Learning, which involves video teaching/video conferencing and/or telepractice/teleservices. If your child accesses instruction/services through video teaching/video conferencing and/or telepractice/teleservices, the District shall consider such access as your consent to receive services through that modality. Any parent/guardian who does not agree to receive instruction/services through that modality must send prompt written notification to Deborah Augarten, Assistant Superintendent of Special Education and Pupil Services, 5 Homeside Lane, White Plains, NY 10605, as appropriate. If you do not consent to the use of video teaching/video conferencing and/or telepractice/teleservices, your child will be provided instruction in an alternative format, such as through written instructional materials or telephone/email consults.

The District expects all students and family members to be respectful of the privacy of other students. As a result, except as otherwise indicated by the District, students participating in group instruction/services are expected to do so from a location which cannot be observed or overheard by others. To the extent that family members may observe or overhear any such group instruction/services, the District expects that you will respect the privacy of the other students and not disclose personal information about any such student(s) to any third party(ies).

Furthermore, the District asks that students and parents/guardians not take screenshots or record any online session. This is prohibited, so that the District can maintain the safety and privacy of our students.

Thank you,

Deborah Augarten  
Assistant Superintendent of Special Education and Pupil Personnel