

# WAYLAND \* PUBLIC \* SCHOOLS



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Dear Parents, Guardians & Caregivers,

I hope this letter finds you and your loved ones healthy. It is hard to believe that just over one month ago we made the difficult decision to close our schools. Over the last few weeks we have all learned about social distancing, more effective hand washing and how genuinely important it is to tell those around us how much we love them. By far the biggest learning curve has been balancing the demands of working from home and helping to educate our children. Many of our staff find themselves in the same situation, facing the same challenges that you are facing. It is a delicate balance that none of us anticipated when we started the school year way back in September.

Special education departments throughout the state have been in close collaboration with each other and with our state level officials as the closure has unfolded. My collaborative efforts have included weekly conference calls with Russell Johnston, Senior Associate Commissioner at DESE, as well as conference calls with area directors and consultation with special education legal counsel. I will continue these collaborations throughout this school closure and will refine Wayland's decisions around special education as guidance evolves or changes.

Our special education service delivery continues to look very different from what is documented and agreed upon in your student's IEP. By now, you should have received an 'N1' letter via email from your liaison notifying you of the shift from enrichment to remote learning and the temporary change in 'service delivery'. As stated previously, you do not need to respond to this letter, it is a notice of the change for your records and ours. The N1 letter would have arrived via email from '[print@esped.com](mailto:print@esped.com)' If you did not receive this letter or would like a second copy please contact Karen Mantey at [karen\\_mantey@Wayland.K12.MA.US](mailto:karen_mantey@Wayland.K12.MA.US).

Special education staff continue to work closely with our general educators as the roll-out of curriculum and learning opportunities goes forward. Special education staff will continue to provide academic and related service support to students in order to help them access the opportunities available to them. All our special education students are unique and no two will receive exactly the same support. You can all, however, expect continued communication and support from your student's team of special educators.

We are still planning on conducting Annual IEP meetings once we can be confident that we have a structure that is effective and technologically sound. Individual liaisons will be in touch with you to see if you are willing to participate in this process or whether you choose to extend your student's IEP to the fall. Please bear in mind that based on personal circumstances all the

members of your IEP team may not be able to present at the meeting. It will not be business as usual, but I think that is something we are all coming to terms with.

If you continue to have questions about your child's general education or special education instruction, please reach out to their teachers or his/her special education liaison. The Wayland SEPAC also continues to be active during the school closure. The SEPAC co-chairs can be contacted at [WaylandSepac@gmail.com](mailto:WaylandSepac@gmail.com).

The special education staff have been working extremely long hours during the last few weeks and they are desperately in need of their April vacation. In order for them to come back rested and recharged on April 27th, I am asking all of them to take a break from school email and school work as best they can. I ask that you support their time away from work by refraining from emailing or communicating until they return after the April break. I promise that they will pick up their work right where they leave off on Friday. I will be working next week, so if you have pressing questions or queries please email me at [richard\\_whitehead@wayland.K12.MA.US](mailto:richard_whitehead@wayland.K12.MA.US).

In closing, I want to thank you for your continued support, patience and partnership as we navigate these uncharted waters. We all hope to see you as soon as possible. Take good care of each other and stay safe.

Regards,

Richard Whitehead M.Ed

Director of Student Services