

Lent, Chad

Subject: Message from SSD

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for all that you are doing to assist us in ensuring that children continue to receive instruction during these challenging times. This is uncharted territory for all of us and I appreciate your patience as things continue to evolve.

I'm writing to let you know that the District has received new guidance from the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) and the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Services (OSERS) regarding special education timelines and conducting meetings during school closures.

According to new guidance from these three agencies, meetings for evaluations and IEPs should be conducted according to timelines, but through means other than face-to-face. There are several ways to remotely participate in a meeting, including by phone conference, or by zoom or other video conferencing method.

Because schools are closed and everyone should be practicing social distancing, a teacher may not go to a student's home or meet in person. If an evaluation can be completed without person-to-person contact, staff will attempt to do so. Regarding conferences, if the parent gives consent, and all required participants are present by phone or electronically, an evaluation or IEP conference can be held.

As we typically do, staff will contact you to schedule upcoming meetings. In the meantime, please feel free to contact me with questions.

Thank you and stay safe.

Chad Lent

Chad Lent, Ed.D.
Director of Special Education
Riverview Gardens, Jennings, and Special School District
314-989-8182