

OSS Updates - 9/18/2020

Dear OSS Parents/Caregivers:

We hope that the first three days went well for you and your child! We are so thankful for all of the special educators, paraprofessionals, school psychologists, social workers, related service providers, behavior and assistive technology specialists, and lead teachers/inclusion specialists who made the last week memorable for learners.

Below you will find highlights for this week as well as the questions and answers from last week's OSS Town Hall Meeting.

UPDATES

OSS Family Conferences + Remote Learning Plans

Due to extenuating circumstances, OSS family conferences will be extended **beyond** September 18, 2020. Parents/caregivers may have meetings scheduled before, during, or after school hours over the next few weeks. We apologize for the delay. Our staff is working as quickly as possible to schedule meetings and gather input from parents/caregivers about their child and finalize remote learning plans.

Safety Manual for In-Person Services Update:

This week, the team of public health experts, OSS educators, and parents discussed how to safely provide push-in and pull-out services and revisited the possibility of students unable to wear a mask or adhere to social distancing. Next week, we will also address administering assessments and safely managing behaviors. We will provide a live update at our next Sub-Committee Meeting on Wednesday, September 30, 2020.

In Person Eligibility

IEP Teams are currently meeting with parents/caregivers to determine which services students with an IEP in grades 4-12 who are not in substantially separate programs will be able to access in person. The Department of Education has set some specific criteria. Some of the criteria include: if a student is in a substantially separate classroom, if the student is not accessing remote services at all, if the student is in foster care, if the student receives ELL (English Language Learning) services, and preschool students. Students with complex and unique needs will be discussed with teams on a case by case basis. Teams will look at the nature of the child's disability and access to services among other criteria. It will be a comprehensive look at the student and that way we can accommodate those students who do not fall into any specific DESE category. Students in Special Start

through Grade 3 and substantially separate are eligible for in-person without an IEP Team meeting.

In Person Educators/Providers

Please note: students *may not* have the same special educator or related service provider they had during remote instruction. Parents/caregivers will receive information regarding who their child's new providers are prior to the start of in-person.

Out of District Transportation (REMINDER)

The Office of Student Services needs to hear from both the family and the school before setting up transportation. If you are an Out of District liaison, please inform your parents that they must email our Student Services Specialist, Janet, at jsnedeker@cpsd.us, if they are in need of this service. It will take *at least* three days for transportation to begin.

Chromebook Device/Hotspot (REMINDER)

- If your child's chromebook is not functioning properly, please email helpdesk@cpsd.us.
- If your child needs a chromebook or hotspot, please inform your child's case manager at the conference. All requests for devices will go through the school administration of Family Liaisons

9/10 OSS TOWN HALL MEETING (QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS)

We have organized the questions into 8 categories: Special Start, In-Person Services, School Calendar, IEP Services, Access, Remote Learning Plans, Technology, and Miscellaneous. We organized the questions into 8 categories: Special Start, In-Person Services, School Calendar, IEP Services, Access, Remote Learning Plans, Technology, and Miscellaneous. Please see the full Q&A in the *School Year 2020-2021 Updates* section of our website.

As always, with any additional questions please reach out to our main office at 617-349-6500. Thank you for your continued support and collaboration!