The following letter is a message for parents of children with special needs. If this does not apply to you, you can choose to delete this message or read on.

Dear Parents of Students with Special Needs,

We hope this finds you and your family well. We understand the current situation has brought many changes and challenges for all. This letter is sent to communicate information concerning your child’s special education services and supports during the school closure.

District #51 has determined that educational opportunities will continue to be provided for all students during school closures. These opportunities may be provided through various means and could include distance-based learning through virtual means, written packets, videos, as well as many more.

Our special education teachers and service providers will be working through the extended Spring Break, March 23 -27, to determine how services can and will be provided for each student they serve. They will be investigating various ways in which services can be provided. They will coordinate with your child’s general education teachers and all necessary service providers to make certain services and accommodations can be provided.

Initial evaluations or re-evaluations may have already been scheduled for your child. Even though we will attempt to conduct these evaluations in a timely manner, we are unable to conduct any evaluations that require face-to-face with your student. We will continue with those assessments not requiring person to person contact, or will attempt to find alternate methods to conduct and gather necessary information. If we are unable to conduct or complete evaluations, we will delay these until we are able to reopen schools.

IEP meetings that have been scheduled, or are due in the immediate future, will be delayed until further notice. We continue to work with State and Federal agencies to determine guidance regarding these meetings and how to move forward.

As each student requires individualized services and supports, you will be contacted and given specific information for your student through their current case manager. We hope to work in collaboration with you to make certain your child is afforded the services that will allow him/her to continue to make progress.

As questions or concerns arise, please do not hesitate to contact this office or personnel from your child’s school. We appreciate your patience and assistance while we work through this unprecedented occurrence.

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