



# OLD FORGE SCHOOL DISTRICT

“Home of the Blue Devils”

300 Marion Street, Old Forge, PA 18518

Phone: (570) 457-6721

www.ofsd.cc

Erin Keating, Ed.D.  
Superintendent

Brian Rinaldi  
Business Manager

March 25, 2020

## **RE: Special Education Services**

Dear Parent / Guardians,

The Old Forge School District is currently following the mandated closure of schools in accordance with Gov. Tom Wolf and the Pennsylvania Department of Education. In an attempt to maintain a level of consistency in your child’s educational programming and to protect the health and safety of our students, families, faculty / staff, and community, we are asking for your assistance and cooperation as we continue to develop programming to address your child’s strengths and needs. The following steps will be taken beginning Monday, March 30, 2020 and may be revised based on further information received from Gov. Tom Wolf, PA Department of Education, US Department of Education, and the Board of Education.

- Special Education services / programming - Gifted Education:
  - Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) - Gifted Education Programs (GIEPs)
    - As of March 30, 2020, IEPs / GIEPs will be completed in accordance with due dates\*. Your child’s case manager will contact a parent / guardian to arrange a phone conference.
    - \*Those IEPs / GIEPs that were due to be reviewed during the initial school closure will be completed in a timely manner. Your child’s case manager will be reaching out to you to review with you.
    - If you would like to meet as an IEP team upon the return to school, we can certainly do so. Please let your case manager know of your request.
  - Re-evaluation Reports (RRs)
    - RRs not in need of additional data will be completed in accordance with due dates.
    - RRs in need of additional data will include the recommendation that additional data is needed with a Permission to Re-evaluate (PTR) to be issued upon the end of the mandated closure.
    - RRs\* that included a PTR, will be completed with the recommendation that additional data is needed with an additional PTR to be issued upon the end of the mandated closure.
    - Your child’s case manager will contact a parent / guardian to arrange a phone conference.
    - \*Those RRs that were due to be reviewed during the initial school closure will be completed in a timely manner.

Christopher J. Gatto  
High School Principal

Michelle Hopkins  
Special Education Supervisor

Shelly Egan  
Elementary Principal



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- Initial Evaluation Reports (ERs)
  - ERs that have gathered sufficient data to assist in determining a student’s eligibility for special education programming / services under IDEA will be completed with the appropriate recommendation.
  - ERs that do not have sufficient data will remain open. Data collection will resume upon the end of the mandated closure.
- Related Services:
  - The Speech and Language Support Teacher will contact a parent / guardian to arrange programming exercises / activities to assist in maintenance of skills. This can be done virtually during the school closure.
  - If a parent / guardian does not agree to virtual SLP services, the OFSD will offer the accumulation of the SLP related service hours during Extended School Year.
  - The accumulation of Occupational, Physical, Hearing, Vision and O&M, related service hours will all be provided during Extended School Year.
- Chapter 15 Section 504 Service Agreements:
  - Accommodations will continue to be provided as outlined in current 504 Service Agreements.
  - Service Agreement revisions will continue in accordance with timelines. The special education director or principal will contact a parent / guardian to arrange a phone conference.
- English Language Development (EDL) / English as a Second Language (ESL) Services:
  - The ESL Instructor will contact a parent / guardian to arrange virtual and/or materials to continue to assist in English acquisition/development.

Please know that the Old Forge School District along with the Pennsylvania Department of Education “appreciate your patience and flexibility as we navigate this unprecedented time together and thank you for your dedication to serving and supporting your school communities.” If you are in need of any further assistance, please feel free to contact me at, [michelle.hopkins@ofsd.cc](mailto:michelle.hopkins@ofsd.cc) or you can contact your building principal at 570-457-6721.

Sincerely,

Ms. Michelle Hopkins  
Special Education Director of  
The Old Forge School District

Christopher J. Gatto  
High School Principal

Michelle Hopkins  
Special Education Supervisor

Shelly Egan  
Elementary Principal