



Woburn Public Schools
Special Education Office
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May 1, 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian(s),

As we wrap up another busy week, I wanted to take a quick minute to provide an update to you all. We continue to be very busy as we navigate this new world of remote learning together.

On Friday, May 1st, the Massachusetts Director of Special Education, Russell Johnston, resumed the weekly meetings following the vacation break. Dr. Johnston's update provided a variety of tips for educators relative to effective strategies for remote learning and data collection. Although we were anticipating some direction with respect to Extended School Year (ESY), the Department of Education indicated that they are waiting to hear from the Governor prior to issuing any guidance. Like many districts, we are beginning to plan for a remote ESY program given the current circumstances, and expect to finalize a decision soon. Additionally, although we are not able to hold early childhood screenings, we will begin the formal registration process for neighborhood peers in our Early Childhood Program next week (via the [website](#)). Those that pre-registered on our website will receive an email when the formal registration opens.

Over the past week approximately 1000 remote learning plans were provided to families. As we begin the next phase of remote learning under the direction of the commissioner, it is our goal to provide more "face-time" for our students. You will likely see updated plans as we continue to adjust our remote learning processes, and I encourage you to communicate with your child's providers and to provide input with their remote learning. This is new to all of us, and we recognize that one size does not fit all and welcome collaboration. Additionally, hundreds of virtual IEP team meetings have been scheduled, and we continue to work through the logistical process of obtaining consents, virtual meeting procedures, and electronic delivery and signature of documents. Next, we will begin to prioritize scheduling team meetings for students with fall transitions, and I hope to complete an accurate and current document soon that will further assist our families in understanding our various programs across the district.

COVID-19 has impacted many of our staff, and we know that it is impacting our many families as well. As this public health crisis continues, we are all beginning to wonder when it will end, and what our new normal will look like. This week one of our very talented RISE teachers shared a song that I would like to pass along to all of you. It is a beautiful tribute by [Alicia Keys](#) to our many essential workers for whom I am grateful. The community of Woburn is strong and caring, and we will get through this together. I hope you and your families are healthy.

Warmly,

Maureen E. Ryan

Maureen E. Ryan, M.Ed.

Director of Special Education