



Woburn Public Schools
Special Education Office
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Dear Parent/Guardian(s),

As summer begins to wind down, we are busy preparing for the start of what will be a very different school year for our many students and faculty. Dr. Crowley and the administrative team have been working diligently to define a hybrid structure that will maximize in-person learning to the extent that we can safely do so. We continue to follow the guidance of the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), and I am writing to provide more information on how students with disabilities will be educated and receive their critical IEP services. We care deeply about our children with special needs and remain committed to providing a free and appropriate public education for all of our students with a safe and effective learning model.

In accordance with the guidelines from the DESE, all families have the option of choosing a fully remote education at this time. Families that choose this option, Woburn Virtual Academy, will receive all of their IEP services remotely through a combination of synchronous and asynchronous sessions. All other students will follow the Hybrid Learning model and their assigned Cohort. Students in the Hybrid Learning model will receive all of their services in a combined model of in-person and remote, based on the unique needs of each student and working within the current safety guidelines in accordance with the CDC and DESE. While special education services may look different this school year, all students will receive their services in accordance with their IEP.

Our many talented educators are preparing schedules that will allow for thoughtful transitions back to school, and in some cases will be providing additional supports and services as we re-introduce students to the learning environment and begin to teach a variety of critical safety protocols. All staff will have several days of in-depth professional development to ensure continuity and consistency across our buildings. We will be closely monitoring student progress and engaging in routine family communication to ensure that our students are both academically successful and emotionally healthy.

Many of you have personally reached out to me to express your desire for more in-person instruction this school year. While I recognize the importance of in-person instruction, and appreciate the challenges that remote learning presents for students with disabilities, the district must continue to work within the DESE and CDC guidelines to ensure safety for both students and staff. The Special Education Office will monitor the data and make adjustments to increase in-person learning time when it is safe to do so. We thank you for your patience and understanding and are looking forward to a successful school year.

Sincerely,

Maureen E. Ryan

Maureen E. Ryan, M.Ed.

Director of Special Education