



Dear Special Education Staff,

This document is intended to provide clarity for special education staff regarding IEP implementation during the extended period of school closures. This document is also intended to be utilized alongside recent guidance for all educators from the FUSD Team and FTA Leadership which outlined the District Plan on How to Accomplish Distance Learning Priorities.

Federal and State Guidance During School Closure

- Student IEPs, including special education and related services, must be implemented to the extent feasible
- IEP services should be delivered through a distance learning model
- IEP meetings should be held if feasible through video conference, phone calls, etc
- While assessment and IEP timelines (initials, annuals, and triennials) have not been waived or extended, the USDOE and CDE will "provide flexibility where possible" and take a "reasonable approach to compliance."

In the above context, guidance is being provided to assist leaders and staff with support from the special education department staff.

Educator Guidance During School Closure

- Case Managers reach out to parent/guardian of each student on their caseload to discuss the distance learning model for their child during school closure
- In alignment with the latest FTA/FUSD Distance Learning Communication, SPED educators should:
 - Continue to Teach, Learn, and Connect
 - Provide each student learning opportunities at least once a week
 - Follow up on each student's learning at least once a week
 - Connect with each student at least once a week
 - Engage in educator learning on ways to support distant learning
- Offer IEP meetings if necessary and feasible utilizing video conference, phone calls, etc (It is in everyone's best interest to hold as many meetings as possible during the closure period to minimize the number of IEP meetings when school resumes)
- Case Managers reach out to paraprofessionals regarding their role in supporting students such as joining virtual class instruction, contacting parents, etc

As always, the special education department staff will be available to answer any questions and provide support for all staff. Regional Instructional Managers (RIMs) will communicate with special education staff at their assigned sites frequently to assist in any way.

Sincerely,
Fresno Unified Special Education Department
Fresno Teachers Association