



LINWOOD

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Susann Tahsin
Supervisor of Special Education

51 Belhaven Avenue
Linwood, NJ 08221

609.926.6730
@linwoodschoools

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Re: Related Services During the School Closure

Dear Linwood Schools' Families,

I hope this letter finds you and your family well. As you know, the school community has been hard at work to support you and your children, as we continue this new journey of distance instruction.

As you are aware, these are unprecedented times and we are happy to report that on, Wednesday April 1, 2020, an emergency regulation was passed, which now allows for Related Services to be provided to our students through virtual, remote, or other online platforms. Further, during an extended public health-related school closure, related services to students with disabilities shall be provided through electronic communications, virtual, remote or other online platforms, as appropriate and as required by the student's individualized education program (IEP), to the greatest extent possible. Allowing the use of electronic communications, virtual, remote, or other online platforms ensures students with disabilities are provided the services they are entitled to, as set forth by a student's IEP, during extended school closures." These decisions will continue to be made in the best interest of each child, based on appropriateness, safety issues, and specific student concerns.

The Linwood School District will continue to provide these services. Teletherapy sessions are intended to be similar to traditional related services, however, instead of in-person sessions, technology platforms including, but not limited to: Zoom, Google Meet, Google Classrooms, pre-recorded sessions, emails with practice materials, and phone conferences are some of the methods that will be utilized to provide remote instruction to students.

The Linwood School District takes the privacy of student information seriously and complies with state and federal laws regarding student information, including, but not limited to, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and the New Jersey Pupil Records Act (NJPRPA). During the COVID-19 school closure, the District is using technology and software applications provided by a third party that students, parents/guardians, and/or staff access via a secure connection on the internet for the purpose of instruction, assessment, and communication.

Your related service providers will continue to work collaboratively with you to identify a schedule for delivery of these services that works best for everyone. They will use a digital platform and may provide services individually or in a small group for designated services, in which the other students in your child's group may also be participating in their homes. The third-party software and applications used by the Districts employ privacy settings so that the data shared over these programs is safe and secure, to the extent that the third party provider guarantees data security.

If you agree to allowing your child to participate in these teletherapy sessions, no further action is needed.

Please be aware, by accepting (**not opting out**) of this service, you agree to the following: *In light of the current school closure related to COVID-19 and the present state of emergency, I provide consent for my child's participation in the provision of remote, group or individual related services, understanding that it may be accessed by other students, parents and/or guardians, who may be present in or observing the group to assist their student. I acknowledge that I am not a participant in group services, although I may be present to assist my child, that the services are confidential, and I agree that I will not permit any other person to view or listen to the remote services.*

In the event you would like to **opt out/decline teleservices related services** during this extended school closure, please complete this [OPT OUT](#) waiver in Google Forms to record that you are requesting your child to not participate in teleservices for related services.

Additionally, the district recognizes that teleservices may not be effective for all students and/or services. In these cases, the related service provider may opt to disseminate effective resources in lieu of teleservices. Please also understand that whether you agree to teleservices or not, all related service providers will informally or formally assess the needs of your child, on an individual basis, to determine if any compensatory services are needed upon the reopening of school.

Lastly, I want to express my gratitude to all parents/guardians for your flexibility and cooperation. All of your hard work and effort during this time does not go unnoticed. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact your case manager or myself, Susann Tahsin, Supervisor of Special Education. Your child's health, safety and education continues to be our priorities during this extended school closure. Thank you.

#FinsUpWingsUp



Susann Tahsin
Supervisor of Special Education