

BERLIN BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

"Where Students Discover Their Potential"

Ms. Kristin Braidwood
Supervisor of Special Education
braidwoodk@bcsberlin.org
(856) 767-0129 ext. 213



Mrs. Laura Behnke
Child Study Team Secretary
cstbehnkel@bcsberlin.org
(856) 767-0129 ext. 213

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Dear Parents of Students with Special Needs,

In light of the recent school closures, I am writing to share our current plans for special education and related services in Berlin Borough. As this is a fluid situation, we may not have all the answers. We appreciate your patience as we work through this process.

- Child Study Team meetings, including Annual Reviews, will be conducted as scheduled but will be facilitated remotely. We are currently looking at utilizing the platform Google Meet for remote meetings. If you are unable to participate remotely and/or want to request a live (face to face) meeting and want to consent to waiving the timelines set forth in the NJ Special Education Code N.J.A.C. 6A:14, please contact us via email - Laura Behnke at cstbehnkel@bcsberlin.org and Kristin Braidwood at braidwoodk@bcsberlin.org
- Special education teachers will be delivering lessons online through assignments aligned with IEP goals. In most cases, these lessons will be delivered in collaboration with their general education counterparts. Your child's teacher and case manager will be available for any questions and/or concerns.
- Your student's related service provider will prepare assignments and exercises aligned with IEP goals that can be accessed via the Internet or sent home through paper packets. Related service providers will also be available for consultation time with parents to provide assistance and support. Related service providers include Speech Therapy, Occupational Therapy, and Physical Therapy, in addition to Counseling. In September of 2019, the New Jersey Department of Education disallowed the use of teletherapy (e.g. video conferencing) to deliver related services for students with disabilities. Unfortunately, the NJDOE has not lifted this rule in light of current school closures. Compensatory services will be offered once school is back in session.

Please feel free to reach out to me or any member of the Child Study Team at any time with any questions or concerns. Keeping the lines of communication open will assist us all in working through this unprecedented time. If your child or your family needs additional behavioral health support during this time, you can access services through the NJ Children's System of Care via PerformCare 1-877-652-7624.

Sincerely,

Kristin Braidwood

Ms. Kristin Braidwood
Supervisor of Special Education