

November 10, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians of Students with IEPs,

We hope that you and your families are well and looking forward to holidays coming up soon! I have a few updates for you this week.

Significant Disproportionality (Comprehensive Coordinated Early Intervening Services)

First, we wish to [share with our](#) parents and guardians of students with Black/AA students that Focus Groups were held as announced on Monday (11/9, 7:30 pm) and Tuesday (11/10, 6:30 pm). A neutral consultant for *Ascendancy Solutions* and volunteer parent facilitators led discussions on significant disproportionality and the over-identification of AA/Black students in the IDEA defined eligibility categories of Intellectually Disabled and Other Health Impaired/ ADHD. Further information can be found on AUSD's "Information About Significant Disproportionality" web page.

Return to School for Flexible Model Students and Learning Hubs

In the Board meeting held on October 27th, the Board of Education recommended a return to school on January 7, 2021 after the Winter Break for the students of families who selected the flexible model. The first phase, contingent upon Alameda County Health guidelines, will be for grades PreK to 2. At this time, District leadership is meeting with staff and scheduling meetings for families to receive input into planning for the return. Special Education staff met with Superintendent Scuderi and Cabinet leaders last week.

In the September 22 Board of Education meeting, the concept of "Learning Hubs" was presented for moderate to severe students. Now that the Board has given us guidance on a start date, "Learning Hubs" planning has been reinitiated. While in Learning Hubs, teachers and staff would be accessed virtually with the help of a non-public agency staff. These staff will support synchronous and asynchronous time. More information will be provided as we progress.

Additional Instruction Sessions

We have completed a contract with an agency called [Tutor Corps](#) after observing the quality of instruction they provided for some of our students. These tutors will provide small group instruction of up to four students in the content areas of Reading and Math. These sessions will be offered virtually at this time. Our goal is to begin sessions by or before Thanksgiving Break to support students with IEPs. If you are interested in your student attending these sessions, please complete this form by **Monday, November 16** so that we can get sessions underway. Prior to beginning, we will review student needs in order to place students in groups.

[Additional Instruction Interest Form](#)

Parent Resource Network Sessions: The District team wishes to further support our parent/guardians while also better understanding parent challenges and needs. In the summer, parent support sessions were well-received. As such, we are planning a series of parent support sessions next month. These will include both information and opportunities to talk with district administrators. These sessions will continue twice monthly. Please join us on Zoom for our next session:

- **Thursday, November 19th, 5:15 to 6:00 pm:**

- Topic: IEP Questions and Answers
- Join Zoom

Meeting: <https://alamedaunified.zoom.us/j/84587144909?pwd=V29FQVJvRzFJSU9qUjc0Yk52RERGUT09>

- Next future continuing sessions TBA via Parent Square: 12/8 (9:00- 9:45), 1/21 (5:15-6:00)

Transportation:

For students who have transportation written into their IEPs, transportation forms need to be returned to Christina Nieves, Office Manager at the district office, by **Monday, November 16**, in order to set up routing for return to school on January 7. Christina Nieves, who mailed the forms previously, may be contacted at cnieves@alamedaunified.org for questions. Zum services will provide transportation that may include a van or bus, contingent on the number of students per route. Students will be distanced and the vehicle cleaned following each route. The safest means of transportation is, of course, by parents. Parents who wish to transport their student will be reimbursed at the federal rate of .575 cents per mile.

Special Education Plan (SEP):

The SEP Plan, like CCEIS described above, is due to the CDE by 12/15/20. The Special Education team has been working on this effort since the summer months when interviews were completed to secure qualitative data. Elements for work are identified by Annual Performance Measures (APMs) and the California Dashboard. In our first meeting, staff met with a few parents to look at some “high view” data and how the elements align with the [AUSD Special Education Strategic Plan](#). More in-depth data will be reviewed as teams implement the plan. In our next meeting, we hope that parents of students with IEPs will join to share their perspectives that will help us to decide priority activities. We hope that you can join:

Topic: Special Education Plan Break-out Groups

Time: Nov 18, 2020 06:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://alamedaunified.zoom.us/j/87670744233?pwd=bjYzenZEdDhLNHdOcjNKN0JhSFNWQT09>

Meeting ID: 876 7074 4233

Passcode: 025549

Assessments and Evaluations: During these unique times, school psychologists and education specialists are scheduling initial, triennial, and academic evaluations as quickly as possible, working to stay on time for those evaluations due this school year, while moving forward and making up those assessments from last spring. Additional non-public agency staff assistance is being provided to both Education Specialists and School Psychologists to move forward more quickly. Staff have been trained in virtual assessments that involve file reviews, interviews of staff, parent interviews, review of classroom data, and sending student response booklets home to complete the assessments. District assessors recommend in-person assessment components based on student need and as necessary.

Do let us know if further information or support is needed while we plan during fluid times. We hope that you are taking very good care and that you will reach out to our team if we can help resolve issues your student may be experiencing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pamela Kazee".

Pam Kazee
AUSD Director of Special Education

CC:
Pasquale Scuderi, Superintendent
Kirsten Zazo, Chief Student Support Officer
Sara Stone, Chief Academic Officer