



**GLOUCESTER CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
DEPARTMENT OF SPECIAL SERVICES**

March 30th, 2020

Dear Families,

The purpose of this letter is to provide the most current information, in regards to Special Education and related services. First and foremost, our goal through this extraordinary event is to act in accordance with the guidance established by the U.S. Department of Education which states; "To the greatest extent possible students with disabilities will be provided the special education and related services in their IEP." With that being said, last week the NJ Legislature passed Senate bill (A3813) and we are waiting for the governor's signature. This bill will allow for specific related services therapy sessions to occur by utilizing teletherapy (computer based) in New Jersey. During the first weeks of COVID-19 school closure, related service therapists provided maintenance of skills materials, linked to teacher google classrooms and provided office hours for consultation to support and maintain as much consistency as possible.

Moving forward, the Department of Special Services will be providing speech & language therapy and counseling services through a virtual platform, as it pertains to your child's Individualized Education Program (IEP) or 504 Plan. Please note, when deciding to give consent to allow your child to participate in these services, you are acknowledging that these services will be provided remotely and that no Gloucester City School District staff member will be physically present with your child. Moreover, the frequency and duration of services may be modified based on this delivery of service and potential limitations of a virtual platform. For other related services, to include occupational therapy, physical therapy, and behavioral supports; the providers will continue to support maintenance of IEP goals and objectives with online materials and provide consultation only. Upon return to school, compensatory services, if required, will be in accordance with the USDOE and NJDOE evolving guidance.

Parents and guardians please complete the [Related Services Online Consent Form](#). Once we receive your consent our Case Managers will reach out to you with detailed information.

For the more information please visit the [COVID-19 GCSD website tab](#).

Stay Safe and as always GO Lions!

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