

Mifflinburg Area School District

Special Education Office

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Mifflinburg, PA 17844
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September 2, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians:

As school opens for Mifflinburg Area School District, we are sure many of you are concerned about your child's readiness to return to full-time learning. Some of your concerns are focused on whether the long disruption created by the pandemic has caused your child to regress educationally. We share your concern. Despite our efforts to provide opportunities for a variety of learning during that unprecedented period, some regression is likely for all of our learners—not just those with disabilities. We want our parents to know our plans for addressing those needs of students with disabilities as school reopens.

Our expectation is that students will have regressed in their previous skill levels and might struggle to recoup those when school resumes with instruction. Some students will need additional supports and services—sometimes referred to as “compensatory services.” With “compensatory service” students will be able to continue on their progression towards their annual goals. “Compensatory services” are intended to supplement the existing educational program of a child to ensure that any extraordinary loss resulting from the pandemic-related school closing is addressed. Your child's IEP team will determine whether he or she needs these services and what those services should be. Not all students will need this support, while others will. In order for the IEP team to make this determination, we will need to re-assess your child's present levels of performance in each area targeted by his or her annual goals. Because every child likely regressed to some degree during the school closing, we will then provide “recoupment instruction” for a reasonable period in order to determine how well your child returns to his or her previous levels and is ready for new learning.

We anticipate allowing approximately two full weeks at the start of school for assessing instructional baselines, followed by approximately ten weeks for “recoupment instruction.” We believe that some students will respond and be ready for new learning quickly, while others will take longer. Our plan is to consider the need for “compensatory services” for every child with a disability. We will make that determination once we have had the opportunity to conduct baseline assessments and provide recoupment instruction.

If we find that a student is struggling to return his or her previous levels of performance, we will convene an IEP team meeting to discuss “compensatory services.” For students whose IEPs are due for annual review early in the year, we will plan a second meeting to address the need for “compensatory services” once recoupment instruction is completed. At any time, we determined that a student is struggling and needs immediate assistance upon the return to school – we will schedule an immediate IEP team meeting.

If you have any questions about our plans or for determining the need for “compensatory services” for your child, please do not hesitate to contact your child's caseload manager. We look forward to working together to make the return to school healthy and successful for our students!

Yours in education,

Linda Kline