Lakeland Central School District COVID-19 Special Education Service Provision

The District will be using its best efforts to provide students the free appropriate public education (FAPE) in accordance with your child’s IEP or IESP during the period of school closing.

Special education and related service providers will be in touch with you to discuss a schedule for service delivery. Related services which are usually provided in a group may have to be provided individually or in a smaller group size, which may result in a reduction in the contact time between the provider and the child as indicated on your child’s IEP or IESP. Related services may be provided directly with the provider on the telephone, by virtual meeting or using computer-based instruction, or instruction using written materials, assistive or other technology. Each service provider will be in contact with the families on their caseloads to determine what is possible and to arrange contact.

Potential benefits of telepractice may include, but are not limited to:

• Can reach individuals who would otherwise not have access to services
• Individuals report positive experiences with telepractice.
• If videoconferences are utilized, your child may be able to connect with his or her peers.
• Your child can work directly on his or her goals.

Concerns regarding telepractice include, but are not limited to:

• Some students, due to their disability may not be able to adequately participate.
• Some students may have difficulty maintaining an effective working relationship due to the physical distance.
• Ensuring student confidentiality due to the visual or auditory nature of teleconferencing is difficult.

The District is committed to providing parents with a meaningful opportunity to communicate their concerns and participate in the on-going implementation and development of their children’s IEPs or IESPs. The District understands that parents may have questions or concerns about their child’s special education program. We encourage parents who have concerns about the special education supports being provided during this period of distance learning to contact the Special Education Supervisor assigned to your child’s school.

If your son or daughter has been recommended for an evaluation which requires a face-to-face assessment or observation, the evaluation will be delayed until school reopens. Evaluations and reevaluations that do not require face-to-face assessments or observations may take place while schools are closed, so long as a student's parent or legal guardian consents to the re-evaluation or evaluation.

CSE Meetings are being rescheduled and, beginning with March 30th, will be conducted by teleconference. Under our new social distancing practices these meetings will feature the use of Google Hangouts Meetings. You will receive an invitation with the
option of video conferencing or using a call-in number. You will receive all documents electronically. This will allow you to ensure that the documents do not pass through the hands of others prior to coming to you. We are going to be starting slowly and building up speed in order to conduct the meeting.

More information regarding the District's response to COVID-19 is available on the district website here: http://lakelandschools.org/

For more information regarding the NYS guidance for students with disabilities during this health crisis find it here: