

**Komarek School District #94**  
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Komarek School District #94

**Dr. Brian Ganan**  
Superintendent  
**Dr. Jason Gold**  
Principal  
**Mrs. Caitlin DiLallo**  
Director of Student Services

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March 17, 2020

RE: COVID-19 AND STUDENTS RECEIVING SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES OR UNDERGOING EVALUATIONS

Dear Families,

As you know, Komarek is currently closed with a return of Tuesday, April 7 in an effort to protect the health and wellness of students, staff, and the community. The support services team understands that the provision of E-Learning activities is not the same as the direct instruction and related services determined at your child's most recent IEP meeting, and we appreciate your understanding as we navigate this unprecedented situation.

The special education department will always have the needs of our students at the center of our decision making. Our special education teachers and service providers are in continuous collaboration with the general education teams to develop meaningful and appropriate E-Learning activities to be completed while we are closed.

All certified special education staff will be available through e-mail during the closure. Staff will be reachable from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. each weekday that we are not on spring break. Please feel free to reach out to anyone on our team with questions or concerns.

As a school team, we are doing our best to make decisions that are in the best interest of both students and staff. Please know that there is no clear procedure on how to handle a global pandemic, and we appreciate your understanding during this time.

Thank you,

Caitlin DiLallo

Director of Student Services

## Frequently Asked Questions

❖ ***My student is not able to complete academic activities online, or they need a great deal of assistance to do so. How will they learn during the Alternative Learning days?***

Case managers and related service providers are developing activities appropriate for the learning level of each student. Students will require various levels of adult interaction and supervision in order to complete these activities. We also encourage students to practice daily living skills during this time for instructional practice, such as self-care routines, setting the table, planning meals, assisting with laundry, and other functional life skills. Activities such as reading aloud, playing games involving turn-taking, or exploring hands-on toys and materials, such as play-doh, will provide students opportunities to practice social skills and explore creativity. We know that the disruption in daily and weekly routines will be particularly challenging for many of our students. We will do our best to help support you with this aspect of Alternative Learning.

❖ ***Is Alternative Learning a requirement during spring break?***

Alternative Learning will be suspended over your child's scheduled spring break and will resume on March 30th.

❖ ***How does this affect my student's annual review date, if it is set to take place during an Alternative Learning day?***

Your child's case manager will be in contact if it is possible to conduct an IEP meeting via phone or video conference. If this is not feasible, the meeting will be rescheduled upon return to school.

❖ ***My student is currently under evaluation. How will this affect the evaluation and the timeline for evaluation completion?***

There are some components of evaluations for initial eligibility and re-evaluations that can take place outside of students being present at school. These might include interviews of parents, guardians, and teachers, or they may involve the completion of checklists and scoring of assessments that have already been administered. There are portions of evaluation that require student presence, including observations of students in learning environments. These components must be delayed until school resumes. We will do our best to complete evaluations and schedule eligibility meetings as soon as possible upon resumption of regular school days.

❖ ***If the third quarter progress report is due during the E-Learning period, will I receive it?***

Yes. Staff will complete updates as scheduled and share with parents and school districts electronically prior to the end of the marking period.

❖ ***Will IEP services missed due to E-Learning be made up?***

At this time, we are awaiting guidance from the U.S. Department of Education and the Illinois State Board of Education of how and when missed services would be addressed. We will provide updated information as we receive it.

❖ ***I have concerns that are not addressed in this letter. Who can I contact about these concerns?***

Caitlin DiLallo, Director of Student Services is available by e-mail at [CDiLallo@Komarek94.org](mailto:CDiLallo@Komarek94.org) or by phone at 708-447-8030 extension 115.

