August 1, 2020

Re: Services for students

Dear Families of students who receive services for special education and are protected under Section 504:

First and foremost – thank you! We truly appreciate your patience and compassion during these challenging times.

We wish to clarify some things about our ability to reopen schools, and what that means to meet the educational needs of your student.

Throughout PXU, we will have safe places for your student to learn, starting August 17th. Adults will help provide supervision and meals will be provided, Wi-Fi and access to technology will be available, and other resources that are available to all students will be provided. As you are aware from meetings with us, we always begin with what is least restrictive – what is offered and available to all students.

Concerning specific services outlined in your student’s IEP or 504 plan, staff from PXU will be calling to ask you questions about your student. Please be honest when talking with them so we can appropriately assess our facility needs, staffing needs in person, and prepare a plan to equitably meet the needs of all students based upon the individual learning needs presented.

We are confident that even through remote/virtual instruction, the majority of our students will be able to access the curriculum, their teachers, and their goals to make progress. We have aligned instructional, evidence based practices that typically happen in a ‘brick and mortar’ location to be accessible virtually. Our teachers and service providers are well versed in:

- Instructional scaffolding
- Universal design for learning
- Accommodations and modifications
- Self-regulation
- Positive behavioral intervention services
- Virtual explicit instruction.

Whether a student receives services in a general education course such as English or World History, or is supported in a specialized
program such as Practical or THRIVE, we have a robust provision of services to support literacy and numeracy as well as for speech, physical and occupational therapy, counseling, and transition services that can be provided through tele-therapy.

However, we do recognize that for some students, this is not conducive to the student’s learner profile, evaluation data, and present levels of performance. The call to you in the next few days will help us:

1) Assess your wants, and your student’s needs,
2) Develop intentional plans and schedules for providing equitable services,
3) Determine staffing needs to ensure student safety
4) Equip staff with necessary PPE and other protocols required by CDC, ADE, and district guidelines to minimize risk factors of covid-19,
5) Discuss fourth quarter progress and access from March – May 2020,
6) Address needs such as transportation, nursing and health aide services, and
7) Ensure provision of a free appropriate public education is made available to students.

If you decide to send your child to school, you will need to complete and sign an acknowledgement form.

As we set forth plans, based upon feedback from you, we recognize there is no easy answer, nor easy solution. Your student’s safety is of paramount concern. The safety of our staff is also at the forefront of our minds. We are doing our best to set your student up for success, create effective working condition for our staff, and meet the needs of all. Thank you in advance for your trust in us, your partnership in the process, and your compassion for our staff as well as your student as we work to build strong communities that help our students achieve success in college, career and life even amidst these perplexing times.

Sincerely,

Wendy Collison
Director of Exceptional Student Services