

Hello,

While the beginning of the upcoming school year is very atypical, I am looking forward to continued collaboration with families and teachers to meet the needs of our students. I am sure you have many questions regarding your child's special education services and plans for ensuring that Tumwater School District students who are eligible for special education receive a Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE). The Tumwater School District Special Services staff are working with state and local leadership to act in a manner that is safe, is in accordance with gubernatorial and health department directives, and provides equitable services. Safety and health continue to be our highest priority. We have consistently, and will continue, to act upon the guidance provided by the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI).

The District continues to have multiple resources to support all students and families. Please see the [TSD Website](#) for additional information.

Specifically, we are doing the following in special education:

- Prioritizing the safety & health of our students and staff.
- Monitoring and responding to questions, comments and concerns sent to the department's centralized email address ([tsd.specialservices@tumwater.k12.wa.us](mailto:tsd.specialservices@tumwater.k12.wa.us)).
- Focusing our efforts to fulfill timelines for evaluations and the development and review of IEPs while also following best practices for safety and health in collaboration with families. If your child's IEP or Evaluation was deferred in the spring, you should expect to hear from their special education case manager (teacher) or school psychologist in the very near future to schedule meetings and develop plans.
- Developing an action plan for addressing instruction. We have been working hard to obtain instructional resources that can be used remotely and are demonstrated to be effective in improving student learning outcomes.
- Developing a process for considering the appropriateness of in-person instruction. Teachers and IEP teams, including parents, will have conversations about the appropriateness and necessity of in-person instruction on an individualized basis. The Tumwater School District remains committed to developing an appropriate instructional program for any student whose family does not wish to access in person services due to health and safety concerns.

Please know that our paramount concern is the health and safety for our students, staff and the public. We very much appreciate your flexibility and patience as we continue to navigate the current circumstances together. If you have specific questions or concerns regarding your child's program, please don't hesitate to contact me using the department email address above.

Please stay healthy!

Kelli Ehresmann, Director  
Special Services

