

Alice Brown-LeGrand
Director Student Support Services

Doreen Crowe, MEd, BSN, RN
Coordinator of Nursing Services

Leanne Ebert
Coordinator of Special Education

Christine Murray
Coordinator of Behavioral Health &
Social Emotional Support

Mollie Dickerson
CTL, School Counselors



Wilmington Public Schools
Office of Student Support Services

182 Wildwood Street | Wilmington, MA 01887
Tel: (978) 694-6032 Fax: (978) 657-9764

March 17, 2020

Dear Wilmington Parent/Guardian/Caregiver,

As you are aware, Wilmington Public Schools, under Governor Baker's direction will be closed through April 7th, 2020 given the unprecedented situation created by the spread of COVID-19 (Coronavirus). We hope that our district and greater community remain protected and safe from this extraordinary situation. These are very unusual times and the information and guidance from local, state and federal authorities has resulted in decisions and actions that are unprecedented in our nation's history. Below you will find an update around the services provided through the Office of Student Support Services and the Departments it encompasses. In addition, to providing an overview of guidelines in effect at this time, resources and supports are also provided.

Office of Student Support Services Access

Until further notice all Wilmington Public Schools Offices including the Office of Student Support Services at the Wildwood School is not open to the public and will have limited staffing. Please call 978-694-6032 if you need to leave a message as staff will be checking the department voicemail or contact Alice Brown-LeGrand, Director of Student Support Services at alice.brown-legrand@wpsk12.com.

District Special Education Services:

As the Wilmington Public Schools is closed and not providing instruction to students, we will not be providing special education services during this time of closure. Please see the guidelines issued by the Office of Special Education Programming: [OSEP Guidance issued March 2020](#). For additional information regarding Special Education please contact Leanne Ebert, Coordinator of Special Education Services at leanne.ebert@wpsk12.com.

Special Education Meetings, Referrals, Reviews, Reevaluation, and/or any IEP meetings:

Wilmington Public Schools, along with other schools in the Commonwealth, will freeze evaluation, referral, meeting and plan distribution timelines for all students during this school closure effective March 12, 2020. This means that as soon as schools open again, the timelines will commence as is required by state and federal regulations. Additionally, at that time we will be working with families to understand the impact of the closure on students. Following, the reopening of school, liaisons, and team chairs will be reaching out to reschedule meetings that were to take place during this time.

Home/Hospital Tutoring:

As a practice, Wilmington Public Schools does not provide tutoring when school is not in session. Additionally, most agencies that provide tutoring are not open, and are also not providing services given the requirement for "social distancing" that is in effect.

Notice of Non-Discrimination

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Contracted Home Services, Parent Training:

Given the concern for the wellbeing of all and the expectation for social distancing, home services are discontinued as school is also not in session. Some agencies may reach out via telephone or telehealth to check in on students as able, however direct services will not be provided.

Public and Private Out of District Day Schools:

Given Governor Baker's order on Sunday March 15, 2020 that all public and private schools close through April 7th, 2020, most day schools have also closed. Wilmington Public Schools will continue to transport students to any programs that may remain open.

Residential Placements:

For students in 365 day residential placements, Wilmington Public Schools will follow the attendance recommendations of the individual school or facility. Parents will be notified directly from the Residential program if the residential school decides to close, and their student will need to return home. In addition, some programs have instituted strict visitation and home visit policies, please make sure you are familiar with them prior to visiting.

School Health Services:

During the school closure, the Wilmington School Nurses and LPN Educational Assistants are currently not on-duty in any of our schools. Please contact Doreen Crowe, Coordinator of Nursing Services, for any questions, concerns or to pick-up your child's medication at doreen.crowe@wpsk12.com or 978-423-5315 (cell).

Preschool Lottery:

The preschool lottery for the 2020-2021 school year is on hold and will take place on a date to be determined once school resumes. Referrals, evaluations, and meetings for students exiting early intervention are currently on hold and timelines will commence once school resumes.

High School Testing, Placement or College Concerns

Please contact Mollie Dickerson, CTL School Counselors, at mollie.dickerson@wpsk12.com. Please also see Twitter for updates at @MSdickersonWHS.

Behavioral Health Resources

As always, if you feel that your child(ren) would benefit from outpatient mental health services we encourage you to utilize the resource list posted on our website: <https://www.wpsk12.com/Page/212>. If your child is experiencing a mental health or emotional crisis, whereas they are a threat to themselves or others:

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- Call 911
- Go to local Emergency Room
- Advocates Mobile Crisis Intervention: Call (800) 640-5432 to speak to an Advocates crisis clinician. Available to help 24 hours a day, every day. <https://www.advocates.org/services/psychiatric-emergency-services>
- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-8255 The Lifeline provides 24/7, free and confidential support for people in distress, prevention and crisis resources for you or your loved ones, and best practices for professionals. <https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org/>
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA's) Disaster Distress Helpline: 1-800-985-5990 or text TalkWithUs to 66746. (TTY 1-800-846-8517)

COVID-19 Resources

Information for families to help communicate effectively with their child(ren) about COVID-19 to help mitigate anxiety:

- Social Story for Flu/Covid-19 from Autism Speaks: [Social Story here](#)
- [How to Talk to Children about the Coronavirus](#) (Harvard Medical School)
- [Talking to Teen/Tweens about Coronavirus](#) (New York Times)
- [Psychological Tips for Children and Adolescents' Emotions](#) (HEMOT)
- [Talking to Children about COVID-19](#) (National Assoc. of School Psychologists)

Given the requirement to socially distance right now, our students who experience depression and who may already be reinforcing a cycle of inactivity/isolation may require a lot of support to contend with this situation. Here are some resources to support **Behavioral Activation**, a Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) technique.

- [CBT Technique: Behavioral Activation](#)
- [Overview of Technique and Resources](#)
- [BA Resources and Overview](#)
- [Covid-19 Daily Schedule](#)

Please contact Christine Murray, Coordinator of Behavioral Health & Social Emotional Support (978) 694-6032 Ext. 1102 christine.murray@wpsk12.com with any questions or concerns.

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Other Resources

Wilmington Public Schools will be offering free pick-up breakfast and lunch starting March 20 from 9:30-11:30 at WHS. Additionally, below you will find additional community resources.

Wilmington Food Pantry-<http://www.commfund.org/>
Wilmington Police Department, Social Worker-<https://wpd.org/socialworker/>
Wilmington Board of Health-<https://www.wilmingtonma.gov/people/shelly-newhouse-rs>
We're One Wilmington-<http://onewilmington.org/>

As circumstances evolve and change over the coming weeks, further information will be forthcoming, based on ongoing communication from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Please take care of each other, stay safe and reach out if we can in any way assist you or your family. We are all in this together.

Sincerely,

Alice Brown-Le Grand
Director of Student Support Services
Twitter @wpsstudentsupp1

Doreen Crowe, MEd, BSN, RN
Coordinator of Nursing Services
Twitter @wpsnurseleader

Leanne Ebert
Coordinator of Special Education
Support

Christine Murray
Coordinator of Behavioral Health & Social Emotional

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