



Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School

Montachusett Reg. Vocational Technical School
1050 Westminster Street
Fitchburg, Massachusetts 01420-4696

978-345-9200 (Fitchburg Calling Area)
978-632-8889 (Gardner Calling Area)

March 16, 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian/Caregiver,

As you are aware, the Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School is closed through April 6, 2020 in response to concerns given the unprecedented situation created by the spread of COVID-19 (Coronavirus). Thank you for patience as we work through the logistics of this ever evolving situation surrounding the COVID-19. I did want to reach out to families whose children receive special education services and provide some updates during these extraordinary times.

Decisions regarding special education services are based on, and deeply rooted in, guidelines issued by the Office of Special Education Programming: [OSEP Guidance issued March 2020](#), in conjunction with guidance from the U.S. Department of Education and the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. This information states that since we will not be providing educational services to the general student population, we are not required to provide services to students with disabilities during this time. However, our staff would like to extend support and mirror services to the greatest extent possible as vested partners in your child's education. Although we are not in session for the next three weeks, we do recognize the value for students to maintain their knowledge base and remain engaged in the educational process. With that in mind, the following information and district guidelines are now in effect:

New Referrals/Initial Eligibility:

Monty Tech, along with other schools in the Commonwealth, will freeze evaluation, referral, and plan distribution timelines for all students in a referral cycle during school closure. This means that as soon as schools open again, the timelines will commence as is required by state and federal regulations.

Annual Reviews/Evaluations in Process:

Monty Tech, along with other schools in the Commonwealth, will freeze evaluation, referral, annual review, and plan distribution timelines for all students on IEPs and 504s during school closure. 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.

Academic and Vocational Support:

While not mandatory during this closure, our special education staff will be extending their support to your child during this time of distance learning via email, Google classroom, Remind application, and other agreed upon methods. Our staff wishes to promote student success and requests that if your child or student does struggle to understand an enrichment concept or activity, that an email is sent letting the Learning Support teacher know additional support is requested. Additionally, teachers may be reaching out to ensure students are supported.

Related Services:

While not mandatory during this closing, related service providers have also extended their support via email, enrichment activities, and various electronic methods. Direct contact and outreach from individual providers may occur during the three week closure as well.

Counseling:

We understand that the anxiety related to this event has caused many students social or emotional distress. If your child is in crisis, whereas they are a threat to themselves or others, you should call 911. If your child is seeing a school based clinician, as part of our in-school counseling service, their services will continue as planned when school is in session. During times of school closure, and given these unforeseen circumstances, our staff would like to follow up with students and families. They will be reaching out to you via email and/or phone.

Attendance:

During this time and given the current circumstances, you will not need a professional note from a doctor/clinician indicating your child is sick. All absences will be excused until further notice, and as such, these absences will be exempt from the Pupil Absence Notification regulation per M.G.L. c. 76, s. 1B and the Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School Attendance Policy.

The special education staff values our partnership and will make themselves available throughout this unforeseen closure. Notably, a 48 hour response time will be reasonable when responding to emails. It is the intent that our best practices, support, and engaging enrichment activities will keep your child progressing; retaining pertinent information in order to meet their individualized goals and benchmarks.

Thank you for your continued support and flexibility as we navigate these unprecedented times. Please stay tuned for more information if circumstances change. As we are in constant communication with our liaisons at both the state and federal level, we will continue to communicate any updates as a district and department in a timely manner.

Enclosed you will find a list of electronic applications that can be accessed to support your child's engagement and learning during this unforeseen closure.

Be well,



Victoria Zarozinski

Director of Student Support Services

Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School District

Enc. Special Education Department Electronic Applications COVID-19

Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School District
 Special Education Department
 Resources for COVID-19 Coronavirus Closing 2020

Below is a list of resources utilized by students within our district. While we recognize not every student will require each feature, we did want to provide you a list of helpful features that could best support your student during these unforeseen circumstances.

If your child does require additional support, please feel free to email their special education contact for assistance. During this closure, we will be doing our best to check emails and maintain communication to the best of our abilities. We recognize that this by no means will make up for direct instruction, but we do hope that our continued work together will allow your child to stay engaged and meet success.

<p>Accessibility</p>	<p>Google Classroom- Student’s have access via their Chromebooks for individual teacher sites. Special Education Teachers have access to students within their co-taught classrooms.</p> <p>Schoology- https://www.schoology.com/</p> <p>Google Read and Write – Offered by: texthelp.com</p> <p>Learning Ally- http://www.learningally.org</p>
<p>Enrichment Activities</p>	<p>Learning Ally- http://www.learningally.org</p> <p>Kahn Academy- http://www.kahnacademy.com</p> <p>Big Ideas Math- https://www.bigideasmath.com/BIM/login</p> <p>IXL- http://www.ixl.com</p>
<p>Reading Instruction</p>	<p>Achieve 3000- https://www.achieve3000.com/</p>
<p>Post-Secondary Transition</p>	<p>Naviance- https://www.naviance.com/</p> <p>SCOIR- https://www.scoir.com/</p> <p>College Board- https://www.collegeboard.org/</p>