

March 23, 2020

For those who have clients who attend Hartford Public Schools, please note that HPS plans to commence its distance learning plan **March 30**. Packets for self-directed distance learning are available at <https://www.hartfordschools.org/understanding-coronavirus/>

During the Mayor's town hall discussion Saturday, it was stated that 10,000 free **Chromebooks would be distributed to students to facilitate the distance learning plan this week, starting today**, with middle school and high school students to be prioritized. There was no information provided as to how they will prioritize distribution, although they are asking families who already have computer access to forego the Chromebooks.

Chromebooks are being distributed **at scheduled school meal distribution sites Monday, Wednesday and Friday. All sites are distributing EXCEPT Achievement First**. Students in need are asked to be present to pick up the Chromebook (no other information was provided). For families who need technology access, there is link for free internet through Comcast on the HPS website: <https://www.hartfordschools.org/understanding-coronavirus/>

Throughout this process, there are **ongoing concerns for students with disabilities who have IEPs**. As this plan is rolled out, the needs of students with IEPs will have to be considered; the best way to go about that remains to be seen, though the PPT process, which now needs to be virtual, would be the natural route.

As of today, certain staff at HPS central office are refusing to hold PPTs. The Center is following up on this and will post additional information as we have it. This is a position many districts are taking across the state, at least in this interim time frame while distance plans are being rolled out, and a period of less than 10 school days has elapsed (which is the special education timeframe for change in placement).

This scenario is completely unprecedented in education and has significant negative potential impacts for students with disabilities, as well as all students. The state is supposed to issue guidance shortly and the Ed. Working Group will summarize and post this information.

For those of you who have students in HPS schools or local Hartford outplacements, please keep me posted on what you are hearing/seeing and what your clients are experiencing, and please reach out to me with any questions or concerns.

Please note that if you have students who are in an out-placement for special education reasons, that outplacement, not HPS, will likely be providing some form of distance learning, although this is not yet clear.

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