

# Update on Reopening Plans for Spectrum Service

August 31, 2020



***Department of Health: Explain how the School will accomplish remote learning, especially considering closing inequity gaps. This must include details outlining the numbers of students, mode of learning, asynchronous and synchronous learning opportunities, internet and device access among students, and alternatives available for students who have neither a device nor consistent access.***

Center for Spectrum Services educates students from 38 school districts in the Mid-Hudson region within a 75-mile radius. Consistent availability to high-speed internet across such a large area is impossible to guarantee. In addition, our families have a wide range of access to internet-enabled devices and varying degrees of comfort level in using them. Center for Spectrum Services is providing Chromebooks to families in need of devices with instruction on their use.

To keep students connected and to meet Individual Educational Plan goals when learning remotely, Center for Spectrum Services has created online accounts for every student. The accounts provide access to the educational platform Google Classroom with individualized and class assignments and videos. Training and ongoing guidance will be provided to assist parents in accessing their child's account.

In August, we surveyed our families' access to internet and technology to clarify what long distance learning opportunities are possible and how they feel about the sessions we have been providing since school closed in March. Synchronous learning opportunities include group or individual Zoom sessions with teachers and therapists and in-person instruction for those students who attend our blended learning model. Asynchronous learning opportunities include recorded lessons, videos, webinars for parents on best instructional methods, written assignments, etc. For students whose parents are unable to use internet enabled devices, weekly learning plans will be emailed or mailed.

Our family service coordinators, teachers and therapists maintain regular email contact with most of our families. Center for Spectrum Service also uses a School Messenger platform to deliver important information quickly through text and email. Links may be provided, when appropriate, to website information or Zoom meeting links. When in session, phone calls are regularly made to convey important information to parents about their child.

Due to the time required to establish secure COVID-19 safety policies and ample supplies of personal protective equipment, Center for Spectrum Services will begin school in September 2020 with an all remote program for our students until October 5<sup>th</sup> when the blended learning model will begin. This will allow for the development of remote learning schedules that can be easily resumed if the viral incidence requires school to close again for in-person instruction.