



## **EMPOWERING/MODELING/IMPACTING**

March 25, 2020

Dear A+ Charter Schools, Inc. Parents and Guardians,

A+ Charter Schools, Inc. Special Populations extends our thanks to our school community for the concern and care that you have shown during these unprecedented and rapidly changing circumstances surrounding the pandemic of COVID-19. As a charter, A+ Charter Schools, Inc. remains committed to providing our students with outstanding continuity of education in a safe and healthy learning environment.

Governor Greg Abbott announced a Public Health Disaster in Texas due to COVID-19 on March 19, 2020. In response to the announcement, A+ Charter Schools, Inc. will be closed through April 10, 2020, to help prevent the spread of this disease. A+ Charter Schools, Inc. will be implementing continuity of learning through an online learning platform beginning March 23, 2020. Some of this learning will take place through audio conferencing, digital media, email/teaching chats, presentation slides, videos/video conferencing, and access to web-based resources and/or learning packets, depending upon individual student and family needs.

### **Section 504**

As A+ Charter continues to provide a continuity of learning opportunities for all students during the at-home learning opportunity, we ensure that students with disabilities also have equal access to the same opportunities, including the provision of FAPE (Free Appropriate Public Education). We ensure that, to the greatest extent possible, each student with a disability can be provided the accommodations or services within a 504 plan.

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## Special Education

As a Special Education Department, we are working to ensure your student is receiving a Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) during the campus closures caused by the COVID 19 pandemic. This means that we will be making every effort to provide special education and related services to your child in accordance with their Individualized Education Program (IEP) using an online learning platform. As directed by the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), at the U.S. Department of Education, A+ Charter Schools, Inc. Special Populations Department will work to provide reasonable support for students to maintain and make progress in the curriculum and in their IEP Goals & Objectives.

We are examining each child's IEP to determine how best to proceed during this unprecedented school closure. Many services can and will be provided online, including specially designed instruction. We value your input to determine how best to proceed in light of the disruption of services due to the health crisis. For some students, no revisions to the IEP are necessary; however, for others amendments may be needed.

**You will receive communication from your student's Special Education Case Manager or other provider(s) by Friday, April 10, 2020.** At that time, your child's case manager will explain how your child's IEP will be able to be implemented in at-home/hi-tech or low-tech learning can be implemented as well as if any changes or modifications need to be made to the plan. Your input will be requested. Upon returning to open campuses, we will know if an Admission Review and Dismissal (ARD) committee meeting needs to be held to review your child's progress.

Initial Review and Annual Review ARD Committee meetings will be held via phone conference or virtual conferencing in order to protect the health of everyone involved during this school closure. Unless agreed to otherwise, any reevaluations due during this time will be completed by reviewing existing evaluation data (REED) to determine continued eligibility. The need for additional, new, formal data for reevaluation will be considered during the next scheduled ARD meeting once school resumes and buildings are open.

Your student's special education teachers and case managers will work with classroom teachers to ensure work is accessible and accommodations and modifications are made when necessary. Educational and therapeutic staff who provide services to our students with disabilities will make every effort to deliver the services indicated in each student's IEP utilizing the platforms available. Please contact your student's case manager or service provider.

Christina Stello  
Special Education Coordinator  
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## **Dyslexia Services**

The District has been collaborating with Region 10 Education Service Center and partners with Texas Scottish Rite Hospital (TSRH) on options for delivery of services to our students participating in dyslexia classes delivered by Dyslexia Therapists. Additionally, we have been in communication with state Dyslexia Consultants to determine the best means of meeting student needs as we transition to an online learning format. With the guidance provided, our first goal will be to ensure that students do not experience regression. This will be our priority for the first few weeks as we focus on fluency, review critical concepts, and reinforce prior learning. Over time we will transition to adding components and activities and provide opportunities for students to demonstrate their application of concepts to ensure student needs are met. Throughout this process, we will be communicating with parents and checking in with students to provide support.

### **A+ Academy Schools**

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### **Action Needed**

Please click the link [Parent Survey](#) check yes if you agree to the above information and no if you do not agree and would like a revision ARD or a 504 meeting to discuss the online learning platform.

The education of our students is dependent on our entire community. While the idea of online instruction or blended learning is not new to our instructional team, moving instruction fully online is a journey that we will all navigate together.

Thank you for your patience and partnership as we work together to deliver a successful learning experience for our students under these unprecedented circumstances.

Best wishes and stay healthy,

Robin Merrill

Director for Special Populations

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