

Online Auditory Access for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students Remote Learning

Dear District Contact Persons in Hopewell Region 14 counties ,

As many of you are not in school today with students you will need to consider your district's approach to providing auditory access for remote online learning if your district is pursuing online learning opportunities. We will be available at Hopewell via bcluxton@sst14.org or aweaver@sst14.org. Each student has a unique configuration that may or may not allow them to connect to listen to media or instructors online.

During the "Extended Spring break", if your school is offering online learning opportunities you will need to decide what to do with providing auditory access to the online instruction. This may be offering captions or subtitles for those who are using online technology for instruction. The need for visual supports such as captions would be for media video access but it would also be for times when teachers are talking via video.

Providing auditory online access for your students may require sending the district's Personal DM/FM systems home to the families. This would potentially allow your students who have certain equipment features enabled on their personal hearing aids and/or cochlear implants to use the district owned DM/FM system to "patch in" for online learning.

However, while the equipment is in the home this means that they will not have their daily sound check documentation in their school provided documentation folders. The daily equipment listening checks will need to be the responsibility of the parent(s)/guardian(s) in the home just as it is over other extended breaks (Summer Break, Thanksgiving Break, Christmas Break, etc.). Documentation, though required by law, may be waived by the district during the stressful time of the "Extended Spring break". If you wish to have the documentation then you will want to send home a page from the folder as the Daily Documentation.

You may also need to send some batteries home to replace in the hearing aids so they can hear the microphone/Personal DM or FM system while it is connected to the laptop, tablet, chromebook etc.

Due to the risk of the equipment being damaged in the home you may opt to send a Prior Written Notice to the families detailing that the assistive listening devices provided by the school will not be sent home. This is in addition to the daily sound checks stopping during the time they are at home.

If you have any questions please let us know. Thank you. Abbey Weaver