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## **Special Education Report** **May 2020**

Happy Mother's Day!! With Governor Cuomo making the decision to keep schools closed for the rest of the school year, students and parents are dealing with a lot of questions and situations. High school seniors are dealing with college admissions, students are trying to get their course requirements and scheduling for next year. And special education students and parents are still dealing with the special needs that they may have. Students who are in special education, during this at home learning, should still be receiving as much of the services on their IEP (Individualized Educational Plan) as possible. Many school districts are providing learning materials (some individuals who needed more help were identified and mailed packets of materials to their homes; BUFSD). According to the Brentwood School District Special Services Department, special education students in the Brentwood School District continued with their counseling, speech and occupational therapies and physical exercises during the home learning process. Many school districts on Long Island are all doing the same. Since every student is different, various techniques should be implemented to assist the student and their families. School districts are utilizing a variety of online subscriptions that supports the learning for special education students.

This is the time of year when CSE (Committee for Special Education) meetings are usually held to focus on placement for next year. One school district has been conducting their CSE meeting online virtually or via conference calls. It is very important that despite everything going on that school districts maintain communication with the families for input for placement recommendations. This is very important as we cannot allow for our children to fall through the cracks. Parents can reach out to their school districts' special services, guidance departments, as well as their school psychologist and social workers for guidance.

With so many unanswered questions, with not knowing what the future holds, the uncertainty can be a scary and frustrating place. We need to continue to provide positive reassurance and emotional support for our children when they ask the questions about the future of schools.

Be safe and stay healthy.

Ref: Brentwood School District Department of Special Services  
Ms. Kim Fauci- Director of Special Services