March 16, 2020

Dear Parents of Students with Disabilities,

The COVID-19 outbreak has caused unprecedented change in the state of Georgia. With a commitment to keep the health, safety and well-being of students and staff the highest priority, Paulding County School District is closed Monday, March 16 through Friday, March 27. The district plans to reopen on Monday, March 30.

Special Education Services through Digital Learning
The district will begin Digital Learning Days on Tuesday, March 17. All special education students will have access to special education services provided through digital learning opportunities from special education teachers, speech language pathologists, occupational and physical therapists, and other special education staff. The special education teachers and service providers have established office hours each day. This provides the time for our staff to check in with students and for parents to reach out to staff. If you have any questions related to any special education digital learning activities, please email your child's case manager.

IEP Meetings and Eligibility Meetings
The district plans to hold all IEP and Eligibility meetings during the district closure.
Please keep any previously scheduled meeting on your calendar.

GADOE-Special Education and Student Supports Department recommends that school districts utilize virtual meetings. We plan to offer two options for virtual meetings.

1) We can provide a video conference option for all meetings. We will use the ZOOM video conferencing platform (computer, tablet, or smart phone) to conduct all meetings. There is no cost for using this platform. Please see the attached pages with information on ZOOM video conferencing or click here.
2) We can provide a conference call option for all meetings. Case managers will send you a phone number with an access code. Call in from any phone and hold your meeting.

Staff from your child's school will contact you to confirm the meeting and email you pertinent information for the virtual meeting. Our goal is to respect your time and to provide meaningful parent participation in a timely manner. There could be a substantial delay if a meeting is cancelled and rescheduled once we are back in school. If you have any questions related to a meeting scheduled between March 16 and March 27, please email your child's case manager.

<u>Attachments</u>
-Federal guidance regarding the provision of FAPE during school closure
-ZOOM Video Conferencing Information

We hope that you and your family stay safe and remain healthy during this pandemic crisis. As always, our goal is to ensure our students have access to the services and supports required in their Individualized Educations Program (IEP).

If you have additional questions, please email studentservices@paulding.k12.ga.us

Check our webpage regularly for more updates:
https://www.paulding.k12.ga.us/site/Default.aspx?PageID=364

Sincerely,
Amy Penn, EdS
Executive Director of Student Services
Paulding County School District

Excerpt from OSERS (Federal Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services)

Question: Is an LEA required to continue to provide a free appropriate public education (FAPE) to students with disabilities during a school closure caused by a COVID-19 outbreak?

Answer: The IDEA, Section 504, and Title II of the ADA do not specifically address a situation in which elementary and secondary schools are closed for an extended period of time (generally more than 10 consecutive days) because of exceptional circumstances, such as an outbreak of a particular disease. If an LEA closes its schools to slow or stop the spread of COVID-19, and does not provide any educational services to the general student population, then an LEA would not be required to provide services to students with disabilities during that same period of time. Once school resumes, the LEA must make every effort to provide special education and related services to the child in accordance with the child's individualized education program (IEP) or, for students entitled to FAPE under Section 504, consistent with a plan developed to meet the requirements of Section 504. The Department understands there may be exceptional circumstances that could affect how a particular service is provided. … If an LEA continues to provide educational opportunities to the general student population during a school closure, the school must ensure that students with disabilities also have equal access to the same opportunities, including the provision of FAPE. (34 CFR §§ 104.4, 104.33 (Section 504) and 28 CFR § 35.130 (Title II of the ADA)). SEAs, LEAs, and schools must ensure that, to the greatest extent possible, each student with a disability can be provided the special education and related services identified in the student's IEP developed under IDEA, or a plan developed under Section 504. (34 QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON PROVIDING SERVICES TO CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES DURING A COVID-19 OUTBREAK 4 CFR §§ 300.101 and 300.201 (IDEA), and 34 CFR § 104.33 (Section 504)).

ZOOM Joining a Meeting

Overview

In this article, we will discuss how to join an instant meeting through an email invite, an instant messaging invite, from the browser, from the Zoom desktop and mobile application, from a landline or mobile phone, and with a H.323 or SIP device.

Before joining a Zoom meeting on a computer or mobile device, you can download the Zoom app from our Download Center. Otherwise, you will be prompted to download and install Zoom when you click a join link.

You can also join a test meeting to familiarize yourself with Zoom.

Prerequisites

- Each meeting has a unique 9, 10, or 11-digit number called a meeting ID that will be required to join a Zoom meeting
- If you are joining via telephone, you will need the teleconferencing number provided in the invite.

 Windows | Mac

1. Open the Zoom desktop client.
2. Join a meeting using one of these methods:

- Click **Join a Meeting** if you want to join without signing in.

- Sign in to Zoom then click **Join.**

3. Enter the meeting ID number and your display name.

- If you're signed in, change your name if you don't want your default name to appear.

- If you're not signed in, enter a display name.

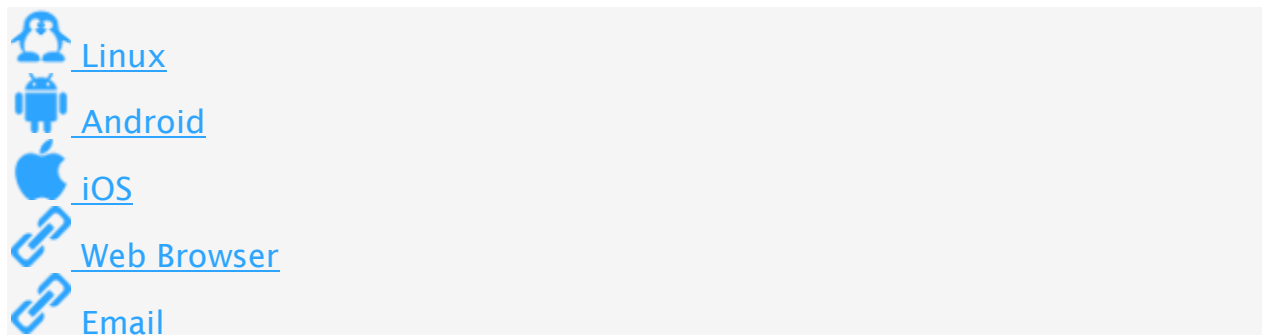## Join a Meeting

Meeting ID or Personal Link Name

Grant MacLaren

◯ Do not connect to audio

◯ Turn off my video

Join   Cancel

4. Select if you would like to connect audio and/or video and click **Join**.

 Linux

 Android

 iOS

 Web Browser

 Email

Click the join link in your email or calendar invitation.

Hi there,

_____ _____ is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android https://_____.zoom.us/j/_____

Or iPhone one-tap :
  US: +16468769923, _____ or +16699006833, _____
Or Telephone:
  Dial(for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

Depending on your default web browser, you may be prompted to open Zoom.

Do you want to allow this page to open "zoom.us"?

Cancel   Allow

Messaging

Telephone

H.323/SIP