

## ATTACHMENT 1

### COVID-19: Proposed Language to Include in ARD Deliberations

1. **Consider beginning ARD committee meetings with an explanation of current circumstances:** Because of the COVID-19 epidemic and the need to take all necessary steps to protect the health of District students and staff and the community at large, \_\_\_\_\_ ISD suspended direct in-person instruction on March \_\_, 2020 with uncertainty as to when the normal operations of the district will resume and under what circumstances. This ARD committee meeting was held via telephone conference to comply with timeline requirements and to comply with health and safety recommendations. The following parties participated:
2. **Consider an explanation in the deliberations if a REED is being considered to continue eligibility while direct in-person instruction and contact is suspended:** Testing the student in person is not advisable during this time when direct in-person instruction is suspended, but face-to-face interaction is necessary for complete and valid assessment results. The ARD committee discussed and accepted a plan which includes a review of existing evaluation data (REED) to maintain eligibility. Once direct in-person instruction resumes, the ARD committee will determine reevaluation needs and propose testing if appropriate. A planning REED may be conducted in an ARD meeting or outside of an ARD meeting with appropriate committee input.
3. **Consider an explanation if a parent or the ARD committee has requested additional assessment for a student which must be conducted face-to-face:** The ARD committee agrees that further testing for student is needed; however, a request for further testing will be initiated once direct in-person instruction resumes. The ARD committee determined that new testing will be completed within \_\_ school days after direct in-person instruction resumes.
4. **Consider clarifying why there are no STAAR accommodations for 2019-2020:** STAAR testing has been cancelled by the Texas Education Agency for the 2019-2020 school year. Recommendations for the 2020-2021 year were made. The ARD committee will review and revise the STAAR testing recommendations next year as needed.
5. **Consider an explanation for a change in the schedule of services while direct in-person instruction is suspended:** The schedule of services in this IEP reflects services and supports needed when direct in-person instruction is being provided to students. During this time when direct in-person instruction is suspended, the school district will be offering virtual and other learning opportunities. The ARD committee has reviewed the student's IEP and has identified the following services that will be provided through alternate and/or additional methods:

*[Insert list of services and explanation of how they will be provided.]*

District staff will contact the parents to discuss the details of providing services.

6. **Consider making it clear that the parent fully participated in the ARD committee meeting held by telephone conference:** Parent participated in the ARD committee decisions by telephone conference and verbally agreed to the IEP and immediate implementation.
7. **Consider an explanation for why parent did not participate in the ARD committee meeting:** Parents were unable to participate in the ARD committee meeting by teleconference, but gave permission to have the meeting without them. A copy of the ARD documents will be sent to the parents. Staff will contact the parents to review the decisions of the ARD committee and request verbal agreement with ARD committee decisions.

**OR**

Unsuccessful attempts were made to contact the parents to participate in the ARD committee meeting by telephone conference. The meeting was held to comply with applicable review timelines. A copy of the ARD documents will be sent to the parents. Staff will contact the parents to review the decisions of the ARD committee and request verbal agreement with ARD committee decisions.

8. **Consider a closing statement to the deliberations:** In spite of the suspension of all direct in-person instruction to students due to the COVID-19 epidemic, reasonable attempts to provide FAPE for the student will be attempted through alternate and/or additional methods. Any deviation from the IEP due to the COVID 19 outbreak will be based on appropriate and reasonable models of service delivery. When direct in-person instruction resumes, the ARD committee will determine if compensatory services are warranted.

**For further information or should you have questions, contact your [Thompson & Horton](#) attorney. If you do not have a Thompson & Horton attorney with whom you currently work, please contact [David Hodgins](#) in Houston, [Holly McIntush](#) in Austin, or [Dianna Bowen](#) in Dallas/Fort Worth and they will put you in contact with the most appropriate T&H team member to assist you.**