Date: May 18, 2020
RE: UPDATED Fedcap 4T Instructional Plan

The Fedcap School is working in accordance with our districts and the NJ State Department of Education to ensure that our students needs are being met, academically, socially and in every area, we can offer our resources.

The Fedcap School Instructional Plan incorporates planning for remote learning that respects the needs for all students and staff and provides implementation that attends to the diversity of each community, ensuring that all our students have equal access to the content.

We meticulously document under the current emergency conditions with regards to Individual Education Plans (IEP’s) and 504 Plans. We structure active student engagement by selecting content that is aligned to standards, has relevance and that is appropriate for all grade levels. We are also in constant communication with each student and their families regarding their physical and mental health concerns and how this pandemic has affected them, and then work diligently to address those concerns.

As of the March 30th all instructional, classroom teachers have created weekly work packets for the students to complete as well as set up accounts on Khan Academy, Google Classrooms and Flip Grid for online instruction, resources and tutorials. Each subject area has also created and provided all the supplies for Project Based Learning activities to differentiate the learning further and which counts as a culminating activity for each subject.

To date almost half of our 57 students either lack internet access and/or technology at home. We do not have enough Chromebooks and tablets for each student but have addressed the need into our new 2020-2021 School Technology Plan that will incorporate remote/distance learning and VR classrooms, supplying each student with a Chromebook and modem to secure internet access through Verizon Business Programs for schools.

Every Friday schoolwork packets are also delivered with five days’ worth of breakfast and lunch FOOD PACKAGES and HYGIENE PACKAGES to the homes of each of our students across five counties and eight cities. We will continue all services until June 26th the end the regular school year, which is when Governor Murphy extended remote learning.

Student course work credits will continue to be monitored and supported through Khan Academy, Google Classroom, finished projects, completed online assignments and work packets which are being checked and graded accordingly. The emphasis on the work assigned, reviewed
and completed is focused on the learning not just compliance. Grading is focused on the continuation of learning and prioritizes the connectiveness and care for our students. All students have opportunities to redo, make up and try again to show progress and our focus remains on their emotional and physical health, keeping them fed and engaged in socialization as well as instruction. We aimed student engagement for approximately 120 minutes to 270 minutes a day inclusive of project time, independent work and direct teacher engagement. Our students are expected to be fully engaged each day and our counselors and instructors also work with parents who are working with their child at home.

We already have credit recovery programs in place and utilize STEAM activities in classrooms. The preliminary plan for graduation is an on-going concern and we are brainstorming the best possible safe and secure ceremony we can have for our deserving students. This may include a “drive-by” ceremony, or a ZOOM Ceremony depending on the variables for each family. We continue to await further instructions from the Governor.

Please note we are anticipating remote learning for ESY students and our Social Workers will continue to be in contact with you regarding ESY which starts July 6, 2020 through August 21, 2020. We intend to provide the same services to our ESY students as we have since the school closures began. Possible alternatives for school opening may include staggering small groups three days a week and they will take home their food for the days they are remote learning.

Student Attendance is verified daily by counselor check ins, the teacher’s ability to see who was able to log into our online classrooms, student texts and phone calls. The instructional staff are available on three days a week to help any students online and daily via e-mail and phone. Social Workers, Behaviorists and Job Coaches are also available daily to address any students in need and are making check-in/wellness calls to each student.

The Fedcap School building is staffed daily on a staggered time schedule. All staff work remotely two or three days a week and come into the building for the remainder. The Principal, Rebecca Borg or Director, Luanne Macri cover the building five days a week with school secretaries and custodial personnel who sanitize and clean the building.

District case managers, school counselors, parents and all stakeholders involved in a student’s IEP are continuing to complete and update IEP’s through platforms employed by districts including ZOOM, email, DocuSign and conference calls.

Although to date we do not service any ELL students, we do have families that need translation in both English and Spanish. We have several bilingual staff members available to assist families if needed.

The Fedcap School updates our plans and letters to parents and can be accessed on our website www.fedcap.org/fedcapschool or by calling our main number (973) 677-0700 for an automated message.