



### **Guidance From Student Services Professionals in our BJE Schools:**

*The following are “take aways” from a Zoom call with our BJE Student Services CoP people, convened by BJE’s [Michelle Porjes](#).*

These are suggestions—as always each school needs to determine what is within their boundaries/rules etc. Many thanks to all who participated.

1. It is validating for parents to hear that this is tough, and that virtual learning can be an imperfect system. We sometimes have to accept things for what they are.
2. It’s also important to highlight that there are opportunities for resilience and new types of learning. Mistakes will be made and we need to celebrate the mistakes. We will all be so much better at using tech after this!
3. We need to hold on to the big picture and especially for diverse learners. Keeping what they have learned intact is as important or maybe more important than pushing forward. Maybe mini next steps are useful?
4. It’s helpful to remind parents that even if they feel overwhelmed today with tech, it will get easier as they become accustomed to using the tech over time.
5. Specific suggestions:
  - a. Packets may be better suited for children who are diverse learners. Is it possible for packets to be left at a certain time in front of school for pick-up (modeled after what some public schools are doing)
  - b. Question: For parents who want “1:1” for students, is hiring TAs for virtual tutoring at a reduced rate a possibility?
  - c. It may be helpful to have teachers post guidelines (time limits) about how long a student should work on an assignment, much like how it is done with homework. (For example, try the math for 10 minutes and after 10 minutes stop).
  - d. Office hours seem to help with providing teacher-student connection, feedback and answering questions.
  - e. Brainpop has great videos on a lot of subjects. There are also self-adjusting programs such as EPIC, Razz Kids, iXL
  - f. Use siblings as a way to entertain each other, teach younger students skills, reinforce skills for older siblings (like reading).
  - g. Kids from one family can virtually “tutor” preschool age children
  - h. A Zoom at the end of the day with parents in a class (even a short one) may provide many advantages.
  - i. Family meetings are useful. Encourage families to set goals, review rules etc.