



Emergency Virtual Instruction Plan

2022-2023

Approved by the East Greenwich Township Board of Education on September 21, 2022

Introduction

In April 2020, Governor Murphy issued an executive order that became P.L.2020, c.27. This law provides for the continuity of instruction in the event of a public-health related district closure so that LEAs can utilize virtual or remote instruction to satisfy the 180-day requirement pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-9.

In order to provide transparency and ensure that New Jersey students continue to receive high quality, standards-based instruction, each school district, charter school, renaissance school project and Approved Private School for Students with Disabilities (APSSDs) must annually submit its proposed program for virtual or remote instruction (plan) to the Commissioner of Education.

This plan would be implemented during a district closure lasting more than three consecutive school days due to a declared state of emergency, declared public health emergency, or a directive by the appropriate health agency or officer to institute a public health-related closure. A superintendent must consult with the board of education, if practicable, prior to implementing the school district's plan of virtual or remote instruction.

A day of virtual or remote instruction, if instituted under a plan approved by the Commissioner of Education, is considered the equivalent of a full day of school attendance for the purposes of meeting State and local graduation requirements, awarding of course credit, and such other matters as determined by the Commissioner of Education.

Any district program of virtual or remote instruction implemented for the general education students shall provide the same educational opportunities to students with disabilities. Special education and related services, including speech language services, counseling services, physical therapy, occupational therapy, and behavioral services, may be delivered to students with disabilities through the use of electronic communication or a virtual or online platform and as required by the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP), to the greatest extent practicable.

Instruction

Equitable access to instruction will be provided to all students.

Connectivity

Students who do not have internet access will be provided with access to the internet.

Devices

The district maintains a supply of Chromebooks, and students in preschool and Beginners in need of a device will be provided one. Students in grades 1 and 2 are assigned a district Chromebook for use when in school. In the event of an unexpected closure, pick up times will be arranged, so families can pick up a device at the school. Students in grades 3 through 6 are assigned a district Chromebook.

Instructional Day

In the event of an emergency closure, the district will maintain the same daily schedule as an in person learning day. The school day begins at 8:40am and ends at 3:20pm. Staff and students will follow their in-person schedule for academic instruction, special area instruction, related services, lunch and recess. Change to the daily schedule may be made due to the length of the closure.

Delivery of Instruction

A blend of synchronous and asynchronous learning will occur. Factors such as the anticipated length of closure and the developmental needs of the students will be considered when determining how instruction will be delivered and which materials/resources will be used.

Google Suite for Education, specifically Google Meet will be used to deliver synchronous instruction, and Google Classroom will be used to provide access to materials for asynchronous instruction. All staff and students have active Google accounts.

Special education related services, when permissible by law, will continue to be provided virtually.

Student Progress

In a virtual environment, student progress will be measured in a variety of ways. Formative methods, such as teacher observation, student participation, review of student assignments, virtual rating scales, exit tickets, etc. will continue to be used in the virtual environment. Summative assessments, such as tests and projects can also continue to take place in the virtual environment, using online subscription services and platforms. Additionally, small group instruction and 1:1 virtual sessions will be used to assess students.

Special Education Needs

Special education students will continue to receive instruction virtually through both synchronous and asynchronous instruction

Related services will continue in the virtual environment where permissible by law. Student progress monitoring will continue to ensure students' progress is documented.

Based on the anticipated length of closure, case managers may contact parents regarding how specific modifications and/or accommodations are implemented in a virtual environment.

IEP meetings, evaluations and reevaluations will continue to occur in a virtual environment.

Addressing English Language Learners

In a virtual environment, services will continue to be delivered to ELL students. Access to technology and materials will be continue to be available. Translated and leveled literacy materials are available via Google platform. Differentiation and technology will be used to support the instructional needs of students.

Depending upon the length and purpose of the closure, additional, specific training may be provided to staff to ensure culturally responsive teaching and learning, socio-emotional learning, and trauma-informed teaching for students.

Attendance

Attendance will be measured daily at 8:40am. This is the start of synchronous virtual instruction. During synchronous classes, attendance will be taken. During asynchronous work time, attendance will not be taken. Students must be logged into the meet and participate to be considered present. The district will follow all current policies and procedures for attendance (and non-attendance) in a virtual environment.

Meals

In the event of an emergency closure, if meal pick up and/or delivery is required by executive order or law, meals will be provided to families. The district will establish and publicize a schedule for meal pick up and/or delivery.

Facilities

In the event of an extended closure, the buildings will continue to be maintained. Based on the reason for the closure, the building maintenance shift schedule may be adjusted to accommodate for health and safety reasons.

Other Considerations

Our Gifted and Talented courses, Take Flight and SOAR, will continue in the virtual environment. Enrichment activities for all students, such as STEAM class, will continue in the virtual environment. Instrumental music lessons will continue in the virtual environment. Clubs may continue in the virtual environment; however, due to the nature of the club and the typical activities, adjustments may be made for a virtual environment or the club may be temporarily suspended.

Basic skills and other academic interventions will continue in the virtual environment.

The social and emotional health of all will continue to be a priority. Monthly counselor lessons, small group and individual counseling sessions will continue in the virtual environment for students. Staff has access to free mental health services through our Employee Assistance Program with Cooper University Hospital. Care Solace will continue to be used to assist staff and parents in locating mental health resources in the community.

The before and after school program will not take place when the physical building is closed due to a public health emergency. To the extent possible, community programs will continue in the virtual environment. The district will work with the provider to support a virtual platform.

Essential employees will be identified based on the reason and expected duration of a public health emergency. A list will be provided to the county office at the start of the closure.