



2023-2024

*Chapter 27 Emergency Virtual or
Remote Instruction Programs*



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1. Introduction

In April 2020, Governor Murphy signed A-3904 into law (P.L.2020, c.27, or “Chapter 27”), which in part requires each school district, charter school, renaissance school project, and Approved Private School for Students with Disabilities, hereinafter referred to as Local Educational Agencies (LEA), to annually submit a proposed program for emergency virtual or remote instruction (Plan) to the New Jersey Department of Education (Department). This law provides for the continuity of instruction in the event of a public health-related district closure by permitting LEAs to utilize virtual or remote instruction to satisfy the 180-day requirement pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-9. To assist LEAs in submitting their Plans, the Department is issuing “Local Educational Agency Guidance for Chapter 27 Emergency Virtual or Remote Instruction Programs for the 2022-2023 School Year (SY),” which includes a checklist identifying components that must be included in an LEA’s Plan.

The Paramus Public Schools Emergency Virtual or Remote Instruction Plan provides for continuity of instruction in the event of a public health-related district closure, in accordance with A-3904 which permits LEAs to utilize virtual or remote instruction to satisfy the 180-day requirement pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-9.

In the event of a transition to remote or virtual instruction, the district will ensure that a list of essential employees is provided to the county office at the time of the transition.

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2. Technology and Connectivity

All students K-12 will receive district-issued Chromebooks to use both within the school building and at home. Any family with inadequate Internet connectivity will be provided with equipment from the district to ensure continued seamless connection.

Support tickets for any issues related to the Chromebooks, Apps, or other online resources can be submitted by students or parents/guardians using a link on the district website. Every attempt will be made to resolve issues remotely. However, if this is not possible, the Information Technology team will schedule a time for a replacement device to be picked up.

As an additional layer of support, the technology office has implemented a live support chat feature on the district website where students, parents/guardians, and staff members can engage live with a member of the technology team to receive direct and timely support with all aspects of technology.

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3. Lunch Services

“Pick-up and Go” cold lunches will be available at designated locations on each side of town to students who are eligible for free and reduced lunch. The pick-up times will be 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. at the following locations:

- Paramus High School: outside the Gary Street cafeteria door
- West Brook Middle School: outside the side cafeteria door

The district will make appropriate delivery accommodations for families in need who are unable to pick up their children’s lunches from the identified locations.

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4. Remote Learning Expectations

In the event that the district is required to transition to remote learning, the instructional length of the school day will follow the length of the regular in-person instructional school day, ensuring compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:32-8.3 and local attendance policies. Moreover, students will be afforded the same quality and scope of instruction and other educational services through live, direct instruction and independent/guided learning. The following is an overview of key components of instruction in the remote learning environment:

- The instructional day will start and end at the regular times:
 - Elementary School: 9:00 - 3:00
 - Middle School: 8:00 - 2:30
 - High School: 7:45 - 2:31
- Students and teachers will follow their in-person schedules. Attendance will be taken via Genesis, and the district will follow its current policies regarding attendance specific to promotion and retention. Moreover, staff members—including teachers, Child Study Team members, counselors, and administrators—will work proactively with students and families to address any student needs related to remote learning or engagement within a virtual learning environment.
- Instruction will primarily be delivered through live, direct instruction via video streaming platforms such as Google Meet or Zoom. Opportunities for independent/guided learning will be incorporated as appropriate into each class’s schedule to ensure students have time to engage in learning off-screen.
- Teachers will utilize Google Classroom as the platform for posting assignments and communicating with students and families in all grades.
- Special Education services will be implemented virtually and include ensuring adherence to Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) and access to digital learning materials and platforms. Teachers and Case Managers will work collaboratively to track student progress and to keep parents/guardians informed of progress or needs. Finally, IEP and other evaluation and review meetings will be conducted virtually via Zoom or Google Meet.
- The district’s English Language Learner (ELL) program will be implemented virtually with teachers utilizing strategies for differentiation (e.g., leveled texts, small group instruction, online platforms) to implement the curriculum. Communication with



families—both in print and virtually—will include translation services and options. ELL teachers will provide additional support through virtual meetings with students based on proficiency level and skill need.

- Support services (Basic Skills, Reading Specialists, ELL) staff members will utilize their own Google Classroom and Google Meet sessions to service students.
- Within the virtual environment, teachers will maintain a focus on the social-emotional and mental health needs of students and continue to emphasize practices of Culturally Responsive Teaching. Counselors and clinicians will be available to meet with students virtually for direct support and additional referral services will be coordinated as part of the district's Multi-tiered System of Support.

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5. Facilities Plan

During an extended period of closure the buildings will continue to be maintained by district personnel. Plans consist of deep cleaning and disinfecting of all schools throughout the district as well as emphasizing preventative measures such as filter changes, water sources being flushed, and systems tests.

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6. Additional Services

To ensure continuity of programming, the district will implement the following services in the event of a public health-related district closure.

- Supplemental learning opportunities (e.g., accelerated learning sessions, ARP/ESSER small group tutoring, etc.) will be conducted virtually either 1:1 or in small groups.
- Credit recovery programs (e.g., Educere) will be implemented virtually with additional support services provided to address individualized needs of students participating in the credit recovery program.
- Extra-curricular programs will operate virtually to the greatest extent practicable with club advisors meeting with students via Zoom or Google Meet.
- Transportation services will be provided following CDC guidelines where appropriate (e.g., transportation for students who attend out-of-district schools).
- Childcare services would be provided through the district's contracted provider, where possible, depending on the nature of the closure.

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