2021–2022

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 2021-2022 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.

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 to all students at designated locations on each side of town. Two meals will be available to pick up every Monday and three meals will be available to pick up every Wednesday. 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.

- 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.

- Support services (ESL, Basic Skills, Reading Specialists) staff members will utilize their own Google Classroom and Google Meet sessions to service students.

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