

# Virtual or Remote Instruction Plan

Palisades Park  
Board of Education

Fall 2023

## **Chapter 27 Emergency Virtual or Remote Instruction Programs for the 2022-2023 School Year (SY)**

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 New Jersey Commissioner of Education.** This plan would be implemented during an LEA 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 chief school administrator or lead person must consult with the board of education or board of trustees, if practicable, prior to implementing the LEA's plan of virtual or remote instruction. A day of virtual or remote instruction, if instituted under a plan approved by the New Jersey 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 other such matters as determined by the New Jersey Commissioner of Education

## **Ongoing Digital Divide**

Instruction will occur through a variety of tools, most notably Google Classroom and Google Meet to ensure, through synchronous and asynchronous instruction, students are provided equitable access to curriculum, instruction, and assessment in a developmentally appropriate way by grade band.

Chromebooks have been purchased for each student to enable all students to have equitable access to the virtual and online instruction. Chromebook distribution will provide for 1:1 student and device distribution, based upon need and student access. Additionally, Wi-fi Hotspots have been procured and are available for distribution to families and households in need of increased accessibility.

Distribution of 1:1 devices for students in grades 4 through 12 will occur at the start of each school year. Distribution of 1:1 chromebooks in grades P-3 will occur on an as needed basis prior to an extended closure, dependent upon classroom and district virtual learning needs.

The District will continue to provide educators with professional development to best utilize the accessibility features and accommodations tools made available through technology-based formats. This will be based in part on strategies and tools implemented successfully for Special Education and ELL students during the initial extended school closure, Title I and Title III recoupment programs, and the District's Extended School Year (ESY) program. Each district employee is required to attend and participate in SIOP training each year to ensure support to offer alternate methods of instruction to all students. All employees are required to complete training each year on culturally responsive norms, inclusive teaching practices, wellness, and any and all trauma induced awareness for children affected by relocation and advised childhood experiences.

Services will be provided in accordance with student IEP's, I&RS, and 504 plans. Students will receive their instruction through virtual and in person means with opportunities for individualized instruction and services in the PM after the single session day.

While providing virtual/remote instruction and services *Google Classroom, Google Meet, and Zoom* will be the method of delivery for instructional content.

### **Documentation, Support, and Implementation of Individual Education Programs (IEPs)**

Related services will be provided for students through Teletherapy, both synchronously and asynchronously, during all remote or virtual instruction days. Attendance and documentation of student progress during individual and group sessions will be maintained by the service provider and the district to ensure compliance.

All student supports and accommodations required within the IEP, including but not limited to Paraprofessional support, assignment modification, and progress reporting, will continue within the virtual or remote school day. IEP required paraprofessionals will continue to support their assigned students via virtual meetings.

Case Managers will continue to maintain communication with families and providers via email, teleconference, and virtual meetings (Google Meet, Zoom, etc.) to ensure that students receive equitable access to all required programs and services. IEP meetings will continue to be conducted via teleconference or virtual meeting, as permitted by the NJ DoE. Our evaluations are not normed for virtual administration, however if an evaluation is scheduled for a virtual or remote day the CST will take time to reschedule that evaluation for the next available in-person session.

**Documentation, Support, and Implementation of English as a Second Language and/or Bilingual Programs**

All English as a Second Language and Bilingual programming and supports will continue to be implemented during a remote or virtual instruction, aligned to State and Federal requirements. ESL and Bilingual teachers will continue to provide instruction for their regularly scheduled students both synchronous and asynchronous. By utilizing alternative methods both online and within the Professional Development plan for the district, all staff members are trained to and utilize alternative methods of instruction within their classes that contain English Language Learners. These methods may include differentiated instruction, translation of assignments, culturally significant and sensitive unit plans, and sheltered instruction, among others.

All district communications will be translated in various languages to meet the needs of our community stakeholders.

**School Lunch and School Breakfast**

All students in the Palisades Park School District will receive a daily lunch and breakfast "grab-and-go" meal from their respective building free of charge. This may be modified to one central location (Lindbergh Elementary School). All meals will be available between the hours of 11:00am to 1:00pm Monday through Friday on all school days.

**Required Length of Virtual or Remote Day**

As schedules are adjusted, educators must maintain quality instruction for students and abide by the minimum requirements set forth in NJDOE regulations.

Educational teaching and support schedules have been adjusted to support staff development and wellness. Teachers and educational staff are contracted from 8:00am to 3:00pm each day. Students will receive four hours of instruction each day with supplemental instruction, professional development, and follow up occurring between 1:30 and 3:00pm each day. All attendance policies, in accordance with the NJ DoE will continue to be implemented as per Palisades Park Board of Education policy. Ongoing communication with families will be maintained to address participation, attendance, and any and all concerns relative to student progress via Genesis, Blackboard Connect, school counselors, and/or administrators.

Teachers will be providing synchronous, live instruction each day via the Google Classroom/ Google Meet platforms. Additionally, Google Classroom will be utilized for supplemental instruction and for children who are absent from “remote” learning. All instructional and supplemental materials will be provided digitally.

### **Facilities Plan and Building Maintenance**

In the event of an extended closure, administrators will ensure regular contact with central office personnel to ensure all school buildings will be maintained for resumption and reentry of schools.

### **Accelerated Learning Opportunities**

All Gifted and Talented, Honors, and Advanced Placement courses will continue, as scheduled, during any period of remote or virtual learning. This includes ongoing identification and support of gifted learners, pursuant to NJ DoE guidance.

### **Social and Emotional Health of Staff and Students**

During an extended school closure, staff and student Social Emotional Wellness surveys and check ins will be conducted periodically. Additionally, School Counselors and Mental Health staff will continue to utilize Telehealth to provide counseling and follow up support to students in need and/or students in crisis. The district will continue to utilize online programming, such as Ripple Effects, to ensure SEL lesson incorporation in all classes in the district during remote or virtual instruction.

### **Student Support Programming**

Student support programming, inclusive of Title I support, Intervention and Referral Services (I&RS), Credit Recovery, Work-Based Learning, and other extended learning opportunities. Regular monitoring of these areas will be conducted by Guidance Counselors, Administrators, and Supervisors.

### **Transportation**

All eligible students will continue to be provided with transportation needs to in-person programming, as provided by district and contract service providers.

### **Extra Curricular and Community Activities**

If permissible, extra curricular programs may continue on a case by case basis, depending upon the reasoning for the virtual or remote option. Many programs, inclusive of all community programs (SEPAG, Conference Nights, Back to School Night, etc.) will be conducted via an online platform if in-person gatherings are not permitted.