

Middletown Township Public Schools
Chapter 27 Emergency Virtual or Remote Instruction Program Guidance
2021-2022

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.

During the 2021-2022 school year, Middletown Township Public Schools will implement the following emergency virtual or remote learning programs:

- To facilitate the implementation of emergency virtual or remote instruction for all learners, support will be provided if students do not have access to sufficient broadband or technology required to participate in the virtual or remote instruction plan described as follows:

- All students in grades 5-12 will be encouraged to transport their 1:1 district assigned Chromebook back and forth between home and school each day.
 - When advanced notice is possible, grade PreK-4 students will be provided with a district Chromebook and charger to take home. Devices will be distributed from their homeroom Chromebook cart.
 - The district will maintain an inventory of portable devices and wireless hotspots. Portable devices and hot spots will be distributed to students in need.
 - Technology equipment home delivery will be available on an as needed basis.
 - Staff members will take attendance for each class to monitor the online presence and participation of students.
 - Students who are marked absent and/or lack an online presence will be contacted to ensure their Internet accessibility status or device status has not changed. Secretarial staff, counselors, and school nurses make these contacts. Those that articulate a new need will be provided the necessary access whether it be in the form of Internet (portable hot spots) or devices.
 - District Gmail, Google Classrooms and on-site technical support allows for continuous assessment of student connectivity and immediate remediation of any network access concerns. Remote assistance will also be provided for technical support requests.
- Impact of virtual or remote instruction on the school lunch and school breakfast programs
 - Breakfast and lunch will be provided to all impacted students at no cost under the 2021-2022 USDA universal free meal program.
 - Meals may be picked up at Ocean Avenue Elementary, Middletown High School North and Middletown High School South on Monday and Wednesday mornings between 7:30AM and 9:00AM.
 - The District will continue to process new free/reduced lunch applications so that eligible families will have access to any additional benefits. These applications can be completed and submitted online on our district website.
 - During an emergency virtual or remote instructional day all schools will follow their early dismissal schedule which meets the mandatory requirement of at least 4 hours of instruction per day:
 - Emergency virtual or remote instruction daily schedules:

- Elementary School: 8:55AM - 1:25PM, 4 hours and 30 minutes
- Middle School: 8:00AM - 12:15PM , 4 hours and 15 minutes
- High School: 7:25AM - 11:40AM , 4 hours and 15 minutes
- Teachers will supply students with Google Meet links on Google Classroom so that students can access their remote coursework from home.
- All teachers will maintain an up-to-date Google Classroom with relevant assignments and resources for students.

Date of Board of Education approval: September 28, 2021