

Pascack Valley Regional High School District



Chapter 27 Emergency Virtual or Remote Instruction Program Plan

2023-2024

Board of Education Approved: July 26, 2023

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Introduction

In compliance with A-3904 (P.L.2020, c.27) signed into law by Governor Murphy in April 2020, the Pascack Valley Regional High School District, [herein referred to as the Local Educational Agency (LEA)], is required to submit an annual proposed program for emergency virtual or remote instruction (Plan) to the New Jersey Department of Education (Department). This plan ensures continuity of instruction during public health-related district closures, allowing the use of virtual or remote instruction to meet the 180-day requirement as per N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-9. To aid LEAs in plan submission, the Department provides the "Local Educational Agency Guidance for Chapter 27 Emergency Virtual or Remote Instruction Programs for the 2022-2023 School Year (SY)," including a checklist of essential components. This plan is based upon the department's requirements and suggestions.

The Pascack Valley Regional High School District's Emergency Virtual or Remote Instruction Plan aligns with A-3904, enabling the continuation of instruction during public health-related district closures. As per the law, the district will provide a list of essential employees to the county office upon transitioning to remote or virtual instruction, if necessary.

Technology and Connectivity

All students in grades 9-12 will receive Macbook Air Laptop Computers issued by the district, usable both within the school premises and at home. Families lacking adequate internet connectivity will be provided with a district-provided hotspot to ensure uninterrupted connectivity.

All instructional staff will receive a MacBook Air Laptop Computer as well as an iPad tablet to facilitate computer-based remote instruction with two devices; one as a camera and one for instructional purposes.

To address any issues related to the laptops, programs, applications, or other online resources, students or parents/guardians can submit technology support tickets via a dedicated email address. The Information Technology team will make every effort to resolve issues remotely. If remote resolution is not possible, a replacement device pickup will be scheduled.

Food Services

During remote learning, "Pick-up and Go" cold lunches will be available to eligible students who qualify for free and reduced lunch, provided by the district's food services provider. Designated locations at each school will facilitate lunch pick-ups from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The pick-up locations are as follows:

- Pascack Hills High School: Front Entrance
- Pascack Valley High School: Front Entrance

The district will accommodate families in need who are unable to pick up their children's lunches from the designated locations by making appropriate delivery arrangements.

Remote Learning Expectations

In the event of a transition to remote learning, the instructional length of the school day will mirror the district's instructional day, adhering to N.J.A.C. 6A:32-8.3 and local attendance policies. Students will receive the same quality and scope of instruction and other educational services through live, direct instruction and independent/guided learning. The following outlines key components of instruction in the remote learning environment:

- The instructional day will maintain regular start and end times: 8:00am to 2:53pm
- Students and teachers will follow their in-person schedules. Attendance will be recorded via Genesis, adhering to current policies on attendance, promotion, and retention. Staff members, including teachers, Child Study Team members, counselors, and administrators, will proactively collaborate with students and families to address any remote learning or engagement-related needs.
- Live, direct instruction through the video streaming platform Google Meet will be the primary mode of synchronous delivery. Opportunities for independent/guided learning will be incorporated into each class's schedule, ensuring students have dedicated off-screen learning time.
- Canvas will serve as the Learning Management System platform for assignment posting and communication between teachers, students, and families across all grades. Further, email, the ParentSquare notification system, and the district website will be additional sources of information
- Special Education services will be delivered virtually, ensuring adherence to Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) and providing access to digital learning materials and platforms. Teachers and Case Managers will collaborate to track student progress and keep parents/guardians informed. IEP, evaluation, and review meetings will be conducted virtually using a web-based videoconferencing client, such as Zoom or Google Meet.
- The district's English Language Learner (ELL) program will be implemented virtually, employing differentiated strategies (e.g., leveled texts, small group instruction, online platforms) to deliver 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 based on students' proficiency level and skill needs.
- Support services staff members (Basic Skills, Speech, ELL, etc) will utilize their respective Google Meet sessions to serve students.
- In the remote environment, teachers will prioritize students' social-emotional and mental health needs. Counselors, SAC's, and Wellness Counselors will be available for direct support through virtual meetings, and additional referral services will be coordinated as part of the district's Multi-tiered System of Support.

Facilities Plan

Throughout an extended closure period, district custodial and maintenance personnel will maintain the buildings. The district's plan includes deep cleaning and disinfection of all schools in the district. Emphasis will be placed on preventative measures such as HVAC filter changes, cleaning, and system tests.

Additional Services

To ensure program continuity during a public health-related district closure, the district will implement the following services:

- Supplemental learning opportunities (i.e., accelerated learning sessions, small group tutoring, etc.) will be conducted virtually, either on a 1:1 basis or in small groups.
- Credit recovery programs (e.g., Educere) will be implemented virtually, with additional support services to address individualized student needs in the credit recovery program.
- Extra-curricular programs will operate virtually to the greatest extent possible, with club advisors and coaches meeting with students via Google Meet.
- Transportation services will be provided according to appropriate CDC guidelines, especially for students attending out-of-district schools.
- Childcare services, where feasible based on the nature of the closure, will be provided by the district for school-aged children.