STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Local Educational Agency Guidance for Chapter 27 Emergency Virtual or Remote Instruction Programs for the 2022-2023 School Year

The New Jersey Department of Education (Department) remains at the ready to assist every local educational agency (LEA) in returning to full-time, in-person instruction for school year (SY) 2022-2023. This includes providing LEAs with guidance in the event of declared emergencies resulting in a district-wide closure. The Department appreciates the challenges that LEAs had to overcome during the 2021-2022 SY as LEAs faced a myriad of decisions affecting both the safety of their students and staff as well as the instructional experience. The Department is encouraging LEAs to reflect upon their experiences with virtual and remote instruction when planning for the 2022-2023 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.

LEAs must include the statutory and regulatory requirements listed in the "LEA Guidance for Chapter 27 Emergency Virtual or Remote Instruction Programs for the 2022-2023 SY," in plans for virtual or remote instruction for the 2022-2023 school year. The 2022-2023 SY plans must be approved by the board of education of board of trustees (board) of each LEA and approved by the respective County Office of Education before being posted predominately on the LEA's website. **The board-approved plan and checklist are due to the respective County Office of Education no later than September 30, 2022.** In the event that the LEA is directed by a public health agency or officer to provide virtual or remote instruction before garnering County Office of Education approval of the Plan, the approval date will be retroactive. Questions should be directed to the County Office of Education.

Local Education Agency Guidance for Virtual or Remote Instruction Plan Attestation for the 2022-2023 SY

The New Jersey Department of Education (Department) is providing the following guidance pursuant to *N.J.S.A.* 18A:7F-9(c) and *N.J.A.C.* 6A:32-13.1 and 13.2, to assist LEAs in the development of their 2022-2023 virtual or remote instruction plans. The Department encourages LEAs to reflect on the previous school year to enhance elements of the prior year's plan to provide the most substantive education, and including, but not limited to, related services, for all students in the event of an LEA closure.

For each of the areas below, the chief school administrator or lead person will either mark "yes," confirming that the information is in the Plan and list the corresponding Plan page number, or mark "no" if the information is not contained in the Plan. The chief school administrator or lead person is expected to provide an explanation to the County Office of Education for all areas marked "no."

By September 30, 2022, the chief school administrator or lead person must submit a board-approved LEA Guidance for Virtual or Remote Instruction Plan for 2022-2023 SY along with this form to their county office of education. At the time of submission to the county office of education, the plan must be posted on the LEA's website. Plans will be reviewed in each county office of education on a rolling basis with an electronic response communicated within two business days of receipt.

LEA Checklist for Virtual or Remote Instruction Programs for the 2022-2023 SY

LEAs must enter the page number where each checklist item may be found in the virtual or remote instruction program submitted to the <u>County Office of Education</u>.

Contact Information

County: W̶ɛrrɛn

Name of District, Charter School, APSSD or Renaissance School Project:
Alpha

Chief School Administrator/Charter or Renaissance Leader Name/APSSD Leader:
Seth Cohn

Phone Number of Contact: 908 454 5000

Equitable Access and Opportunity to Instruction	
Question	LEA Yes or No
1. Is the LEA ensuring equitable access and opportunity to instruction for all students?	Yes

Question	Page Number	LEA Yes or No	County Yes or No
2. Does the program ensure that all students varied and age-appropriate needs are addressed?	1	Yes	
3. Is the program designed to maximize student growth and learning to the greatest extent possible? Synchronous and/or asynchronous virtual or remote learning plans which will maximize student growth and learning.	1	Yes	
4. Does the program describe how the LEA will continuously measure student growth and learning in a virtual or remote instruction environment?	1	Yes	
5. Does the program describe how the LEA will measure and address any ongoing digital divide issues, including a lack of internet access, network access and/or sufficient access to devices?	1	Yes	

Notes on Equitable Access to Instruction

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Addressing Special Education Needs

Question	Page Number	LEA Yes or No	County Yes or No
1. Does the program address the provision of virtual or remote instruction to implement Individual Education Programs (IEPs) for students with disabilities to the greatest extent possible, including accessible materials and platforms?	I	Yes	
2. Does the program address methods to document IEP implementation including the tracking of services, student progress, as well as provision of accommodations and modifications?	I	Yes	
3. Does the program describe how case managers will follow up with families to ensure services are implemented in accordance with IEPs to the greatest extent possible?	I	Yes	
4. Does the program address procedures to conduct IEP meetings, evaluations and other meetings to identify, evaluate and/or reevaluate students with disabilities?	I	Yes	

Notes on Special Education Needs

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Addressing English language learners (ELL) Plan Needs	Page Number	LEA Yes or No	County Yes or No
Question			
1. Does the program include an English as a Second Language and/or bilingual education program aligned with State and Federal requirements to meet the needs of ELLs?	1	Yes	
2. Does the program describe how the LEA communicates with families of ELLs including providing translation materials, interpretative services, and literacy level appropriate information?	1	Yes	
3. Does the program include the use of alternate methods of instruction (that is, differentiation, sheltered instruction, Universal Design for Learning), access to technology and strategies to ensure ELLs access the same standard of education as non-ELL peers?	1	Yes	
4. Does the program include training for teachers, administrators, and counselors to learn strategies related to culturally responsive teaching and learning, socio-emotional learning, and trauma-informed teaching for students affected by forced migration from their home country (e.g. refugee, asylee)?		No	

Notes on Supporting ELL Educational Needs

Attendance Plan

Question	Page Number	LEA Yes or No	County Yes or No
1.Does the program address the LEA's attendance policies, including how the LEA will determine whether a student is present or absent, how a student's attendance will factor into promotion, retention, graduation, discipline, and any other decisions that will reflect the student's performance?	2	Yes	
2. Does the program describe how the LEA communicates with the family when a student is not participating in online instruction and/or submitting assignments?	2	Yes	

Notes on Attendance Plan

Safe Delivery of Meals Plan

Question	Page Number	LEA Yes or No	County Yes or No
1. Does the program contain how the LEA will provide continued safe delivery of meals to eligible students?	2	Yes	

Notes on Safe Delivery of Meals

Facilities Plan

Question	Page Number	LEA Yes or No	County Yes or No
1. Does the program contain an outline of how buildings will be maintained throughout an extended period of closure?	2	Yes	

Notes on the Facilities Plan Other

Other Considerations

Does the program contain the following considerations?	Page Number	LEA Yes or No	County Yes or No
a. Accelerated learning opportunities	1	Yes	
b. Social and emotional health of staff and students	1	Yes	
c. Title I Extended Learning Programs	1	Yes	
d. 21st Century Community Learning Center Programs	1	Yes	
e. Credit recovery	1	Yes	
f. Other extended student learning opportunities	1, 2	Yes	
g. Transportation	NA		
h. Extra-curricular programs	2	Yes	
i. Childcare	.	no	
j. Community programming	2	Yes	

Notes on Other Considerations

Remote Learning Plan
Alpha School
2022-2023

Overview:

Each classroom has the ability to broadcast through Zoom. In the event that remote learning is needed the students will view the classroom through the Zoom link and then engage in classwork through Google Classroom.

Google Classroom:

Assignments will be loaded into the classroom as well as links to the online texts for students to work from home. The expectation is for grade-level appropriate mini lessons to take place on Zoom and then work monitored and completed through Google Classroom. The teacher will monitor work completed and plan individual Zoom conferences as necessary. Teachers will individualize to their students to the best of their ability. Consideration will be given to accelerated learning opportunities and BSI Title I students.

Lack of Internet Access:

Families that do not have internet access (there has been only 1 in the past 3 years) will be offered a hotspot or similar solution. In the event that these are not adequate, paper copies of work will be offered with check-in phone calls.

Special Education Considerations:

Students who have an IEP will have their Google Classroom submissions modified and monitored by the Special Education Teacher. Individual conferences will be created as necessary to help students complete work and to measure over-all understanding and progress. The Case Manager will have access to the Google Classroom to monitor work and communicate with parents to ensure services have been provided appropriately.

English Language Learners:

ELL learners will meet via Zoom once a week with the students to practice conversational skills and develop learning activities. The ELL Supervisor will determine if teachers need additional training for specific home situations. We will continue to use the ELL Supervisor as the primary Spanish Translator and reach out to Warren County for help with Mandarin and other Language barriers that present themselves as the year progresses.

Attendance:

Remote students are expected to be viewing the mini lesson. Completed work or communication with the teacher regarding the work will count as having attended the class.

Free/Reduced Lunch:

Remote families that request meals will have a weekly delivery of a week's worth of prepackaged breakfast and lunch meals. Boxes will be left at the door of the residents.

School Closure:

In the event the school must be closed and remote learning takes place for all, the district will notify the County Superintendent. In addition:

a.   If the building is safe, teachers will be given the option to operate from their classrooms
b.   The custodial staff will continue to maintain the building as if it were open on a regular schedule.
c.   If students need credit recovery after extended closure or quarantine the district will utilize the State Approved company Educere.
d.   The school's Zoom account will be made available for community groups to conduct meetings in case of building closure.

Extra-Curricular Activities:

Specific social and academic clubs that can meet via Zoom will do so during extended closures. Students quarantined for extended periods of time will be allowed to attend via Zoom.

APSSD Applicable Only: Sharing Plans

Was the program shared with all sending districts?   Yes [X]   No [ ]

Notes on APSSD Sharing Plans

Essential Employees

Question	Page Number	LEA Yes or No	County Yes or No
1. The LEA will ensure essential employees are identified and a list is provided to the county office at the time of the LEA's transition to remote or virtual instruction.	8	Yes	

Notes on Essential Employees

Board Approval

Date of board approval (mm/dd/yyyy): 09/20/22

Notes on Board Approval

Posted on Website

1. Is the program posted on the school district/APSSD/Charter/Renaissance School Project Website? Yes [X] No [ ]

2. Link to website: www. Apssedu. Org