



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 or 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 [County Office of Education](#).

Contact Information

County:

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

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

Phone Number of Contact:

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?	



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?			
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.			
4. Does the program describe how the LEA will continuously measure student growth and learning in a virtual or remote instruction environment?			
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?			

Notes on Equitable Access to Instruction



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?			
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?			
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?			
4. Does the program address procedures to conduct IEP meetings, evaluations and other meetings to identify, evaluate and/or reevaluate students with disabilities?			

Notes on Special Education Needs



Addressing English language learners (ELL) Plan Needs

Question	Page Number	LEA Yes or No	County Yes or No
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?			
2. Does the program describe how the LEA communicates with families of ELLs including providing translation materials, interpretative services, and literacy level appropriate information?			
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?			
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)?			

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. Does the program describe how the LEA communicates with the family when a student is not participating in online instruction and/or submitting assignments?			

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?			

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?			

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			
b. Social and emotional health of staff and students			
c. Title I Extended Learning Programs			
d. 21 st Century Community Learning Center Programs			
e. Credit recovery			
f. Other extended student learning opportunities			
g. Transportation			
h. Extra-curricular programs			
i. Childcare			
j. Community programming			

Notes on Other Considerations



APSSD Applicable Only: Sharing Plans

Was the program shared with all sending districts? Yes 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.			

Notes on Essential Employees

Board Approval

Date of board approval (mm/dd/yyyy):

Notes on Board Approval

Posted on Website

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

2. Link to website: