



## STATE OF NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

### **Local Educational Agency Guidance for Chapter 27 Emergency Virtual or Remote Instruction Programs for the 2021-2022 School Year (SY)**

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 the 2021-2022 SY. 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 2020-2021 SY as they 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 2021-2022 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 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.

LEAs must include the statutory requirements listed in the "LEA Guidance for Chapter 27 Emergency Virtual or Remote Instruction Programs for the 2021-2022 SY," in their plans for virtual or remote instruction for the 2021-2022 school year. The 2021-2022 plans must be approved by the LEA's board of education or board of trustees (board), submitted to the county office of education for review and approval, and posted on the LEA's website. **The board-approved plan and checklist are due to the county office of education no later than October 29, 2021.** In the event that the LEA is directed to provide virtual or remote instruction before garnering county office approval, the approval date will be retroactive. Questions should be directed to the county office of education.



## LEA Guidance for Virtual or Remote Instruction Plan Attestation for the 2021-2022 SY

### Contact Information

County: Camden County

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

Name of Chief School Administrator or Lead Person: Matthew Sheehan

Chief School Administrator or Lead Person Contact Number: (856) 784-1333

The New Jersey Department of Education (Department) is providing the following guidance pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-9(c) to assist districts in the development of their 2021-2022 virtual or remote instruction plans. The Department encourages LEAs to reflect on the previous school year to improve elements of the prior year's plan to provide the most substantive education, including related services, to their students in the event of a district closure.

For each of the three 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 October 29, 2021, the chief school administrator or lead person must submit a board-approved LEA Guidance for Virtual or Remote Instruction Plan for 2021-2022 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.

**The plan outlines how virtual or remote instruction will be provided to students who may not have access to sufficient broadband, or to any technology required for virtual or remote instruction.**

The program should account for measuring and addressing any ongoing digital divide that exists, whether it be network access or lack of sufficient access to devices.

Page Number: 52

District Confirmation: Yes  No

County Confirmation: Yes  No



**The plan addresses the impact of virtual or remote instruction on the school lunch and school breakfast programs.**

The plan should contain how the LEA will provide continued safe delivery of meals to eligible students.

Page Number: 61

District Confirmation: Yes  No

County Confirmation: Yes  No

**The plan contains the required length of a virtual or remote instruction day.**

The minimum hours of instruction for a virtual or remote day is four hours excluding lunch and recess.

Page Number: 52

District Confirmation: Yes  No

County Confirmation: Yes  No

**Plan Posted on LEA Website**

Is the plan posted on your website? Yes  No

Website link: www.sterling.k12.nj.us

**APSSD Only**

Was your plan shared with all sending districts? Yes  No

**Board Approval**

Date (mm/dd/yyyy): 09/16/2021

**Name and Signature of Chief School Administrator or Lead Person**

Chief School Administrator or Lead Person Name: Matthew Sheehan

Chief School Administrator or School Lead Person Signature: 

Date (mm/dd/yyyy): 09/17/2021

**Date of Submission to County Office**

Date (mm/dd/yyyy): 09/17/2021