

CHANCELLOR ACADEMY
Pompton Plains, NJ
Chapter 27 Emergency Virtual or Remote Instruction Program
2022-2023 School Year (SY)

Governor Murphy issued the executive order in April of 2020 that became P.L.2020, c.27 or “Chapter 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.

Chancellor Academy, Pompton Plains, an APSSD, is providing full day in-person instruction and related services in the school building from 8:00 AM through 2:00 PM Monday through Friday for the 2022-2023 SY, starting on September 6, 2022. We are committed to maintaining continuity of educational services for all students according to the IEP, in the event a transition to emergency virtual or remote instruction is necessary during the 2022-2023 SY.

Equitable Access and Opportunity to Instruction

Chancellor Academy issues all students an individual Chromebook to utilize in school and at home for instructional purposes during the 2022-2023 school year, in compliance with our technology use policy. Students unable to attend school in-person for COVID-related reasons, such as testing positive for COVID-19 and quarantining, have the opportunity to temporarily transition to virtual instruction, related services and behavior management per their IEP until they are cleared to return to school. If a student must remain home for more than two school days due to COVID-19 or another documented reason, Chancellor Academy will offer to deliver synchronous virtual instruction using Zoom, Google Meet or a similar platform, to supplement asynchronous learning with Google Classroom assignments. Staff members also communicate with students via email, Chat, telephone and mailing home supplemental materials. Students absent from school for any reason will have the opportunity to access classwork posted on Google Classroom.

To address a potential digital divide, Chancellor Academy will continue to inquire with parents/guardians periodically throughout the year in English and Spanish to ascertain and resolve issues related to Internet connectivity. Tech support staff communicate with parents/guardians to help assure students are able to access the Internet on their Chromebook from home, as well as offering assistance with using technology effectively.

Continuity of Instruction during a School Closure

In the event a classroom, a specific division, i.e., middle school, high school or Chancellor Academy Transition (C.A.T. Program), or the entire school must transition from in-person instruction and related services to virtual or remote learning, a combination of synchronous and asynchronous instruction will be delivered. Closing for in-person learning may be necessary due to natural disaster or another documented emergency reason, or for cases of COVID-19 or another contagious illness as recommended by the local health department. After three consecutive days of school closure, Chancellor Academy students will be invited to virtual classes and related service sessions on Zoom or Google Meet, beginning at 8:00 a.m. Students will follow their regular schedule of classes and receive five hours of virtual education per day, with a fifteen minute lunch break scheduled before the final class. Students ages 18-21 in the Chancellor Academy Transition Program (C.A.T.) will switch from SLE's in the community and community-based learning experiences to home-based learning and work tasks. Virtual sessions will focus on job readiness and independent living skills. All students will be provided assistance to complete classwork, projects and quizzes through Google Classroom and email during the period of school closure to progress toward meeting standards-based IEP goals. On-line assignments and lessons are modified to meet the individual needs and levels of the students. Opportunities for accelerated learning and for remedial instruction will be planned and implemented by staff on an individual basis and per the student's IEP. Instruction will be delivered virtually during the period of school closure. Teachers will utilize individual or smaller group sessions and break-out rooms for students who need additional academic support or accelerated lessons during virtual learning to differentiate instruction to the greatest extent possible. Students pursuing credit recovery during the regular school year or the extended school year program will continue to do so through virtual class sessions with the subject teacher(s) if a school closure occurs. Resource materials will be mailed to the student's home.

Staff members participate in professional development during the school year related to the use of instructional technology to maximize student engagement as well as other relevant professional development topics.

Social and Emotional Health

The social-emotional health and well-being of the students is a significant priority and especially important during a period of school closure. Counselors will maintain regular contact with students on their caseload and schedule individual counseling sessions.

With parent consent, group counseling is also conducted per the IEP.

The behavior management program and behavior modification point system with rewards and incentives continue to be utilized if virtual or remote learning takes place. Professional development opportunities will be provided to staff related to social emotional learning and mental health.

Documentation of Attendance

During the period of school closure and the transition to virtual or remote learning, students will be marked present by joining and participating in the class or related service session on Zoom or Meet, starting at 8:00 AM. Teachers and related service providers document student participation in several ways including the digital behavior management system point card, the ALMA SIS (including gradebook), Related Service Log and the Student Contact Log.

Parents/guardians of students who do not log onto their initial and subsequent classes are contacted by school staff. Students are expected to attend all virtual class sessions and related services per their schedule unless the school is notified by the parent or guardian of their absence. In this case students are expected to make up missed assignments. Tech support staff will inquire if the absence is technology related and troubleshoot any issues. Chancellor Academy will inform the Child Study Team case manager from the sending district of issues related to attendance.

Meetings during School Closure

If Chancellor Academy needs to transition to emergency virtual or remote instruction, meetings including IEP and other CST meetings will be held virtually on Zoom or another platform instead of in person. Parent meetings and conferences will be held virtually or by telephone during the school closure.

ELL and Bilingual Communication

Chancellor Academy does not currently have students who participate in English as a Second Language or bilingual education classes. Several staff members are bilingual and regularly communicate with parents and guardians in Spanish. If an individual student, a division of the school or the entire program needs to transition to virtual or remote learning, bilingual staff members will contact and maintain on-going communication with the families of Spanish-speaking students.

Provision of School Meals

Chancellor Academy serves breakfast and lunch meals in the building, providing nutritious free and reduced meals to eligible students daily. If a transition to virtual learning seems likely for the following day, students will be sent home with their grab and go breakfast meal and additional healthy food items (such as fruit, carrot sticks). Chancellor Academy will communicate with the school districts of students who participate in the Federal Free and Reduced Lunch Program to direct eligible students to sites distributing meals within their community/home district and will direct parents/guardians/students to contact their local district. This will help assure students at risk for food insecurity will have their nutritional needs met during the school closure.

Maintenance of School Building during Closure

During a period of closure, the facility, including the buildings and grounds, will be maintained by the custodians/maintenance staff. Other essential workers including the technology team, administrative and office staff and the school nurse will maintain continuity of school operations in the most safe and efficient manner until reopening.