



School Year 2022-2023

**CHAPTER 27 EMERGENCY VIRTUAL OR REMOTE
INSTRUCTION PROGRAMS**

Introduction

In April, 2020, New Jersey Governor Jim Murphy signed A-3904 into law (P.L.2020, c.27, known as “Chapter 27”), requiring each school district, charter school, renaissance school, and Approved Private Schools for Students with Disabilities, hereinafter referred to as Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) to annually submit a proposed program for emergency virtual or remote instruction to the New Jersey Department of Education. This law provides for the continuity of instruction in the event of a public health-related district closure by permitting LEAs to utilize remote or virtual instruction to satisfy the 180-day requirement pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-9. To assist LEAs in submitting their Plans, the Department has issued “Local Educational Agency Guidance for Chapter 27 Emergency Virtual or Remote Instruction Programs for the 2022-23 School Year”, which includes a checklist identifying components that must be included in an LEA’s Plan.

Link Community Charter School has developed a plan for Emergency Virtual or Remote Instruction Program that provides for continuity of instruction in the event of a public health-related district closure, in accordance with Chapter 27. This plan would be implemented during a closure of more than three consecutive 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. This plan has been submitted for Board approval, posted on the school’s website, and submitted to the Essex County Office of Education.

Compliance and Communication

- Approved by the LCCS Board of Trustees 10/5/2022
- Posted on district’s website on 10/5/2022
- District completed checklist and link to the plan submitted to the county on 10/5/2022

Essential Employees

- The district will make available a list of all essential employees upon making the decision to transition to virtual or remote instruction pursuant to Chapter 27.

Technology and Connectivity

- Chromebook devices have been set aside for students’ use at home during the school year through the school’s 2:1 Chromebook to student ratio. One Chromebook is assigned for in-school usage and a second is assigned for home usage.
- All students have been issued a school purchased Chromebook for use in school.
- Chromebooks are sent home to every student in October unless needed earlier.
- The Secured DNS web-filter, web-filter in the cloud, operates as an extension and is installed whenever someone logs into a Chrome device with a “linkschool.org” email address. The filter provides filtering to ensure appropriate content is accessed while utilizing the Link device.
- The school has purchased over 100 mobile hotspots that are available to families with connectivity issues while the district is closed to in-person learning. A survey is sent to all families to determine the need based on current access to the internet from home each year and families are instructed to contact the school if connectivity/access changes upon a change to virtual/remote instruction.

- All teachers, paraprofessionals, professional staff, and administrative staff have been issued a school purchased laptop.
- All staff with connectivity issues will receive a school-purchased mobile hot spot for the duration of virtual/remote instruction.
- All key personnel will receive a school purchased cellular phone for the duration of virtual/remote instruction.

Opportunities for Learning/Instruction

- Virtual/remote instruction will take the form of synchronous instruction for core and co-curricular subjects and intervention periods according to the schedule in place at the time (accounting for academic quarterly changes).
- Homework may be provided outside of the virtual/remote school day.
- Formative and summative assessments will continue throughout the virtual/remote period.
- Teachers and staff will continue regular meetings throughout the period of virtual/remote instruction via Google Meet and Zoom.
- The administrative team, health and wellness team, and instructional coaches will continue to provide support and services in a virtual/remote environment.
- Enrichment (i.e. elective classes) will continue to be provided through a virtual/remote environment.

Addressing Special Education Needs

- Classified students with Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) will receive modifications and accommodations according to their individual needs. IEP implementation and progress monitoring will continue through existing staffing via remote/virtual access.
- The school's on-site case manager and special education coordinator will continue to monitor the overall special education program and communicate with families and staff to ensure appropriate support is being provided and services maximized, via phone and email.
- Evaluations, meetings, and services will be conducted virtually.
- Classified students will have full access to all technology being made available to the school community.

Addressing English language learners (ELL) Needs

- The school's ELL instructor will continue to support identified students with the school's English as a Second Language program, as aligned with Federal and State requirements.
- The school's ELL instructor will also continue to communicate with families to check-in and provide regular progress updates via phone and/or email.
- The school will continue to differentiate the instruction to best support students identified as ELLs.
- ELL students will have full access to all technology being made available to the school community.

Attendance

- The school will continue to abide by the Board Policy on Attendance.

Health and Wellness

- The district will continue to provide counseling/supportive services through the district's social workers and contracted psychologists.
- Recognition and award ceremonies will continue through virtual/remote environment.

Other Considerations

- Students will be required to attend and participate fully, on a daily basis, in all of their classes.

Breakfast and Lunch Services

- "Pickup and Go" breakfast and lunch meals will be available at designated days and times at the school for families who are eligible for free or reduced lunch.
- The district will make appropriate delivery accommodations for families in need who are unable to pick up as necessary.

Facilities Plan

- During an extended period of closure pursuant to Chapter 27, the school building and property will continue to be maintained by the custodial staff/personnel and contracted cleaning company. Both will also be responsible for deep cleaning and disinfecting as necessary.
- Supplies necessary for in-school instruction are maintained and deployed as needed by the custodial staff/personnel. These includes masks, hand-sanitizing stations & refills, plastic shielding, air filtration systems & filter replacements, and signage.
- Usage of the facility by outside organizations and partners will be reevaluated during any closure period.