

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES COMMISSION OF MORRIS COUNTY

Virtual/Remote Instruction Plan for the 2025-2026 School Year

The Educational Services Commission of Morris County, per Guidance for Chapter 27 Emergency Virtual or Remote Instruction Programs for the 2025-2026 School Year, is submitting the following virtual/remote learning plan in case of an Emergency School Closure requiring Virtual/Remote instruction for its sole school, Central Park School in Morristown, NJ. In April 2020, Governor Murphy signed A-3904 into law (P.L.2020, c.27, or "Chapter 27"), which in part requires each school district, charter school, renaissance school project, and Approved Private School for Students with Disabilities, hereinafter referred to as Local Educational Agencies (LEA), to annually submit a proposed program for emergency virtual or remote instruction (Plan) to the New Jersey Department of Education (DOE). This law provides for the continuity of instruction in the event of a public health-related district closure by permitting LEAs to 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.

The Plan for the 2025- 2026 school year, approved by the ESC Board of Directors, the completed checklist to their county office of education. The list of essential personnel will be sent to the County office when and if a closure is declared.

This plan will 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 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 Virtual 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 2025-2026 SY," in their plans for virtual or remote instruction for the 2025-2026 school year. The 2025-2026 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.

Equitable Access and Opportunity to Instruction

- The ESC reviews and prepares instruction to be used in virtual/remote circumstances which reflect the needs of each student and their family dynamics to assure successful implementation of the virtual plan.
- Since all students at the ESC Central Park School are classified, IEPs requirements are imbedded in the virtual/remote plan for each student.
- The ESC recognizes that remote/virtual instruction for classified students is not the optimal modality for progress or student growth. While students are in session in the school building, teachers practice remote/virtual instruction to assist the students in using remote activities.

- The ESC Central Park School does not offer in class and remote instruction at the same time. It is too disruptive to the in class experience of special education students and teachers. Instruction is either all remote, or all in person.

- It is understood by parents and teachers that the main indicator of student progress will be an anecdotal record of how each session is received by each student.

Device Access/ Connectivity

- All Central Park School students have equitable access to remote learning technologies for an extended school closure.

- All students at Central Park School ages 5-21, have either been issued a connected device by their home district or have used devices provided Central Park School. In the event of a school closure that is anticipated to last over 3 days, the school will provide remote learning.

- All teachers and therapists have access to technology resources including but not limited to, a district issued Laptop, applications, resources and electronic professional development resources.

- The ESC will monitor and address any ongoing digital divide issues, including a lack of internet access, network access and/or sufficient access to devices through a contract with our internet provider, Peggnnet Inc.

Addressing Special Education Needs

- Each student has a portion of their IEP which addresses the type of materials and platforms the student is comfortable with. During remote/virtual instruction these factors are considered in design the program of instruction. If student does not have comparable devices at home, arrangements are made to delivery the devices to the student's home.

- The IEP of each student addresses how the service will be monitored and includes anecdotal information from the parent, in consultation with the teacher recognizing that this form of instruction is not optimal.

- Each sending district develops their own plan for their case managers which Central Park School teachers follow.

- Each sending district develops their own plan for the conduct of IEP meetings for their students attending Central Park School.

Virtual/ Remote Learning Schedule (class/building/district closure)

All students will be required to attend and participate, on a daily basis, in all of their classes via Zoom sessions utilizing their home district or school provided electronic device.

- Teachers and therapists will hold "live" interactions, through Zoom, with students based on their daily class and therapy schedule.

- District bus will drop off support paper packets along with manipulatives and therapy equipment to students' homes weekly in the event of an extended closure.

- Students will follow their full day, in-person class schedule, each day of the Emergency Closing.
- Attendance will be recorded for each class in accordance with the provisions of the IEP.
- The teachers will report any non participating student to the Principal who will call the parents and notify the student's case manager of the situation.
- Teachers will be available for extra help, as requested.
- Adjustments may be made to this schedule based on screen time and/or feedback from stakeholders. Possible adjustments may include the shift to a half day bell schedule, and/or the incorporation of asynchronous learning activities.
- Student, parents or staff experiencing emotional distress as a result of the closures will be referred to the ESC consultants to address these issues.
- Community based programs are suspended during the closure. The Vocational Coordinator will be in close communication with the program contacts so that restarting programs can be facilitated upon reopening.

Quarantining Students

If a student is asked to quarantine during the 2025-26 school year, the student should be marked as "Absent Excused." Similar to when a student is absent from class, commensurate education will be made available for the student with check ins from the teacher and therapists.

Meals

The ESC does not participate in the National School Lunch program. The ESC does provide free lunch to 7 students. Parents of those students are provided a \$25 Shop Rite card each month to assist in the provision of lunch for those eligible students.

Facilities Plan

- Central Park School will be cleaned daily during the closure. The ESC experience has been that the teachers are able to provide remote/virtual instruction more effectively when they are able to use their classrooms.
- The school is organized so that there are minimal exposure of staff members to each other during the closure using the CDC guidelines for social distancing and masking.
- The central ventilation system which has CASPR installed virus elimination devices will be maintained and examined by the ESC health and safety consultant, Aero Environmental, Inc.