



Ridgefield Public Schools

...valuing each and every student

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Ridgefield Schools Virtual or Remote Instruction Plan for the 2022-2023 School Year

In April of 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 Local Education Agencies 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 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 purpose of meeting State and local graduation requirements, awarding of course credit and such other matters determined by the Commissioner of Education.

Below is the Ridgefield Schools Virtual or Remote Instruction Plan for the 2022-2023 School Year which was approved by the Board of Education on September 22, 2022.

Equitable Access and Opportunity to Instruction

Ridgefield is prepared for virtual or remote instruction through its one to one device initiative for all students. Each student is assigned a district device and internet connectivity. Families without internet connectivity will be assisted by the district in obtaining it. Through a district survey during the pandemic, Ridgefield was able to offer resources to those without internet access.

If there were to be a school closure, synchronous instruction will be used with the greatest flexibility and individualization. There will be dedicated time at the end of each school day for students who need it. Teachers will continue to measure student growth and learning through ongoing assessments and online tools.

The platform allows for individual and breakout groups so that teachers may individualize instruction. Computer programs such as IXL, Achieve 3000 and Let's Go Learn as well as Readers and Writers Workshops allow students to work at their own pace while scaffolding instruction.

Addressing Special Education Needs

If a program of virtual or remote instruction is implemented for the general education students, the same educational opportunities shall be provided to students with disabilities. Special education and related services, including speech language services, counseling services, physical therapy, occupational therapy and behavioral services, may be delivered to students with disabilities through the use of electronic communication or a virtual or online platform and as required by the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP), to the greatest extent possible.

Case managers will track and follow up with families through direct contact and subsequent IEP meetings. Meetings will be conducted virtually.

Addressing English Language Learners (ELL) Plan Needs

The Ridgefield School District will continue to strive to ensure that virtual or remote instruction is aligned with the District's curriculum and will continue providing instruction virtually and remotely in an authentic way to ensure students acquire the expected content knowledge acquisition and skills.

All teachers are currently undergoing training in Sheltered English Instruction (SEI) through the New Jersey Department of Education. Teachers are expected to incorporate these strategies into both in-person and virtual instruction. Additionally, individual mentors for ELL students are available as well as ESL classes for families to bridge school and home.

The district website has a translation mechanism for school announcements and material, there is also staff available to translate materials verbally or by translating written forms.

School professional development as well as Safeschools provide workshops to address culturally responsive and socio-emotional learning including Affirmative Action, HIB, Youth Suicide and various workshops addressing awareness of different student cultures in our schools.

Attendance Plan

Ridgefield's Board of Education approved policy on Attendance will be followed. Teachers and administrators will reach out to families, including those with students on home instruction, with attendance issues.

Safe Delivery of Meals Plan

During the Pandemic School closure, Ridgefield safely distributed meals to students, outdoors, in front of Ridgefield Memorial High School. Upon a virtual or remote instruction day, lunch and breakfast for the next day will be provided at the same location between 1:00PM-3:00PM daily to all Ridgefield students. Tables are set up more than six feet apart and students line up socially distanced. Providing this two-hour window keeps lines at a minimum. This same procedure will be used if needed.

Facilities Plan

The custodial staff will continue to sanitize the buildings daily. Air purifiers have been installed in every classroom, bathrooms and offices.

Other Considerations

*All of the below may be offered virtually or remote during a mandated school closure except otherwise noted

Accelerated Learning Opportunities - These are offered through summer programming, differentiated instruction at the elementary levels and honors classes at the middle and high school levels.

Social and emotional health of staff and students- Ridgefield Schools created a partnership with Bergen County Therapy to implement a school based social emotional learning, wellness and mental health program for students and staff. Ridgefield school counselors are trained to continue the program at each school. Mindfulness/Self Care activities is addressed during professional development and an Elementary support counselor was added to the staff this school year.

Title I Extended Learning Programs - Each school year, Title I schools examine the best ways to serve eligible students, including extended day, mentoring, and/or summer programs.

21st Century Community Learning Center Programs – Ridgefield implemented a Summer Enrichment Program for all students over the past two years.

Credit Recovery – Students are able to attend summer school for credit recovery and graduate if timelines are met.

Other Extended student learning opportunities – Ridgefield implemented a Summer Enrichment Program for all students over the past two years. Schools also examine the best ways to serve ELL students, including extended day, mentoring, and/summer programs.

Transportation – Ridgefield has its own in-house bussing system and may contract out if the need warrants. During a school closure transportation would not be provided.

Extra-Curricular programs – May be virtual if necessary

Child care – During remote/virtual periods, child care would not be offered through the schools. Before and After care programs run during in-person learning

Community Program – Ridgefield has implemented a very successful mentoring program serving all students identified as needing social/emotional support including ELL, special education, low income, immigrant, low performing and homeless students. Each identified student is assigned a district staff mentor to assist with support and resources in & outside of school. Mentors collaborate with teachers and parents to ascertain student needs to be successful in school and will encourage students and families to become knowledgeable and engaged in the educational process.

Essential Employees

A list of essential employees will be provided to the county office at the time of transition to remote or virtual instruction.

Length of virtual or remote instruction day

During virtual or remote instruction, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:32-8.3, a school day shall consist of not less than four hours, except that one continuous session of two and one-half hours may be considered a full day in Kindergarten.

Remote day schedules are as follows:

Shaler Academy	8:30 AM-1:00 PM
Bergen Boulevard School	8:30 AM-1:00 PM
Slocum Skewes School	8:15 AM-1:00 PM
Ridgefield Memorial High School	8:00 AM-1:00 PM

** the times listed above exclude lunch and recess

The superintendent shall ensure that students, parents, staff and the board of education are informed promptly of the superintendent's decision. This will be done by messaging and posted on the district website at www.ridgefieldschools.com.