

Wharton Borough Public Schools

Virtual/Remote Instruction Program

2022-2023



Introduction

This report outlines the protocols that will be implemented to ensure continuity of instruction in the event of a public-health related school district closure. The utilization of virtual/remote instruction during this closure will satisfy the 180-day requirement pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-9. This plan would be implemented during closure lasting more than three (3) consecutive school days due to a declared state of emergency, declared public health emergency, or a directive by the local or state health agency or officer to institute a public health-related closure. The Superintendent or designee will communicate with the Board of Education prior to implementing the plan of virtual/remote instruction.

The Wharton Borough Public School District has prepared this plan following guidance from the NJ Department of Education and includes these key areas:

- I. Equitable Access and Opportunity to Instruction
- II. Addressing Special Education Needs
- III. Addressing English Language Learner (ELL) Plan Needs
- IV. Attendance Plan
- V. Safe Delivery of Meals
- VI. Facilities Plan
- VII. Other Considerations

I. Equitable Access and Opportunity to Instruction

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 district has a 1:1 Chromebook Program in place for all students. The school principals will track this information in our student information database. Similarly, the district has contracted with a provider to students without access to the internet in their domicile. Among other safeguards, Go Guardian has been purchased and installed to further the safe use of technological devices and the internet.

Student families will be surveyed for additional needs/information and may submit additional needs and/or requests to the District.

II. Addressing Special Education Needs

The regular school program will continue to the greatest extent possible. The elementary and middle school virtual or remote days will coincide with the regular school day hours inclusive of time for lunch and recess. Related Service providers, such as SLP's, Physical and Occupational Therapists, and Reading Specialists will have a repository or materials and videos for students to access. As with other staff members, the SLP's and Reading Specialists will have virtual office hours.

Related services will be provided "virtually" to students via Google Apps/Zoom.

Staff assistants will be required to check in with their teachers to join them in their Google Hangouts as needed. Staff assistants will complete professional development through NJ Safe Schools and GCN.

Students in approved private schools for Students with Disabilities/OOD will be transported to their placement when open. The placement will be responsible for coordinating services for distance learning. District case managers will oversee student progress.

Special education students will have little to no interruption of their instructional program. If necessary, paraprofessionals can individualize instruction while being monitored by the classroom teacher. Accelerated learning opportunities and Gifted Reach Out (GRO) will continue to the greatest extent possible.

III. Addressing English Language Learner (ELL) Plan Needs

English Language Learners will have uninterrupted instruction at the elementary and middle school through virtual instruction. ELL students will engage with their ESL teacher, though the schedule may be different than during regular in-person instruction. This will be determined by the individual needs of the students.

IV. Attendance Plan

Attendance is taken at the beginning of each period at the middle school. Students must log in to each class period on time and have their computer cameras on (to confirm attendance) in order for the student to be marked as “present”. Elementary students must log in at the beginning of the school day and will remain logged in to class until the lunch break. After lunch, students must log in again and adhere to the same protocols described above.

The district attendance policy will be followed. Parents will be notified if a student is marked absence without a parent notification of said absence in *Realtime*. If necessary, a home visit may be performed to engage students in learning.

VIII. Safe Delivery of Meals

In the event of a district closure, the Free and Reduced Meal program will continue to operate. The distribution of school meals for approved students will be daily between 11:00 a.m. and noon. This distribution will occur at the Duffy main office.

IX. Facilities Plan

In the event of district closure, all school facilities will be properly monitored by district custodial/maintenance staff. Should health conditions warrant, a rotating skeleton crew will be deployed. In addition to all existing established cleaning procedures, the school custodial staff will implement a deep clean of the school building, including classrooms, restroom facilities, gymnasium locker rooms, and cafeteria.

In summation the Wharton Borough Public School District will follow all recommendations outlined in numerous Government publications and advisories which are already established and will adjust procedures and policies accordingly as new advisories are released and updated

X. Other Considerations

- **Social and emotional health of staff and students**
- **Title I Extended Learning Programs**
- **21st Century Community Learning Center Programs**
- **Credit recovery**
- **Other extended student learning opportunities**
- **Extra-curricular programs**
- **Childcare**
- **Community programming**

Extracurricular programs will be postponed and outside community groups will not be permitted in the school facilities. Title I Extended Learning Programs will be rescheduled so that no instructional/intervention time is lost.

The district does not provide credit recovery for students. The district does not offer a 21st Century Community Learning Center Program.

School guidance counselors and Child Study Teams will be available to check in with students and assist families. The district also has contracted with SAGE/Thrive for additional mental health supports and will have two mental health clinicians available virtually to address student and family needs.

Essential Employee List:

Lenny Hernandez, Head Custodian

Christopher Herdman, Superintendent

Sandy Cammarata, Business Administrator

Rob Hayzler, Principal

Pam Blalock, Principal

Jennifer O'Malley-Dorr, School Nurse