

Frenchtown School District Board of Education



EMERGENCY VIRTUAL OR REMOTE INSTRUCTION PROGRAM PLAN IN ACCORDANCE WITH P.L. 2020, C.27 FALL 2021

**Daria A. Wasserbach, Superintendent
Adopted - September 28, 2021**

FRENCHTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT

EMERGENCY VIRTUAL OR REMOTE INSTRUCTION PROGRAM PLAN

Component 1 - Equitable Access to Instruction Plan

I. INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the Department of Education's Local Educational Agency Guidance for Chapter 27 Emergency Virtual or Remote Instruction Programs for the 2021-2022 School Year (SY), the Frenchtown School District offers this school health-related closure preparedness plan. Specifically, this plan addresses all of the required components and checklist requirements.

- Component 1 - Equitable Access to Instruction Plan
- Component 2 - Addressing Special Education Needs Plan
- Component 3 - Addressing ELL and Bilingual Needs Plan
- Component 4 - Safe Delivery of Meals Plan
- Component 5 - Length of Virtual or Remote Instruction Plan
- Component 6 - Attendance Plan

II. EQUITABLE ACCESS TO HOME INSTRUCTION

Frenchtown's plans for offering home instruction in the event of a health-related closure utilizes student iPads with access to the district's student learning management system through a wireless connection, with accommodations and modifications for students who do not have wireless access to the internet in the home.

We have surveyed students and families to determine any gaps in wireless internet access in our community. Our survey indicates all students have internet access.

We are prepared to offer wireless internet access to these and any other families who emerge as needing assistance through arrangements with vendors such as Comcast and through the lending of wireless "hotspot" devices.

In the event that we are unable to offer access, or in the face of any other disruption of access either in portions of or throughout our region, we will provide paper copies of materials and arrange for delivery or pickup of such copies in accordance with any guidelines or restrictions imposed by the Department of Health or other agencies.

III. DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

As of the date of this revision, Frenchtown's demographic profile is as follows:

Total Active Students: 111

Homeless: 0

Low Socioeconomic: 13

Students with Disabilities: 19 Students with Sp Ed IEP's, 0 Speech Only IEP's, 6 Section 504 Plans

English Language Learners: 9

State-funded Pre-school: 0

IV. ADDRESSING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

The district uses surveys to identify students' and teachers' access to devices and network connectivity within our educational community. Students and staff are queried at least once each year about the physical technology that is available to them both in school and at home, the level of support in which they receive for technology-related questions, needs, and services available.

Upon registering at Frenchtown School, and completed annually thereafter, parents and guardians complete survey questions indicating availability of technology infrastructure at home. These responses are held in our PowerSchool Student Information System. Records indicate that zero students do not have internet access.

All teachers and students are issued 1:1 devices every four. The district maintains a reserve of 100 extra retired student iPad devices at all times that can be used as loaners until their units are repaired or replaced. Student and staff devices are remotely managed and issues that arise during Remote Learning Days are easily reported to our Student Help Desk (via an email) or Staff Help Desk (via staff ticket through our HelpDesk website.) Issues reported are triaged remotely via email, phone calls, or use of our Mobile Device Management software (MDM) or Splashtop, our remote service assistance software by the entire technology department for effective and efficient service. In the event of a true physical break, a loaner device is configured and delivered via our transportation department to ensure social distancing standards are addressed at all times.

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Component 2 - Addressing Special Education Needs Plan

I. PROVISION OF REMOTE/VIRTUAL INSTRUCTION

Frenchtown recognizes that not all related services and/or portions of a student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP) can be implemented during closure. Our special education staff will determine those services and portions of IEPs prior to any closure.

Throughout any closure, special education staff will remain in contact with out-of-district placement schools and families to ensure continued instruction and to work in collaboration on the provision of any necessary home instruction. Our special services staff maintains a directory of contacts at each out-of-district school to discuss specific considerations in the event of a closure.

For students requiring discrete trial instruction, special education staff will determine if parents can implement any maintenance programs at home. We will endeavor to engage related service staff in the development of home-based activities (e.g., fine motor work, speech worksheets, and more) that align to the goals in the student's IEP.

In the event that we cannot provide a related service, that services will be deferred and banked. Upon reopening, assessments will occur to gauge any loss in progress as a result of closure, and to determine the need for any compensatory education.

The special education staff and support team is providing virtual services and classes via Google Meet platform. The team distributed instructional resources, including physical academic and support materials prior to the school closure. Additional academic resources utilized include electronic classroom assignments (i.e. Canvas, etc.). Modified classroom schedules and work assignments have also been completed for individual IEP students, including scheduling 1:1 virtual meetings.

II. DOCUMENTATION OF IEP IMPLEMENTATION

Teachers will follow all IEP and 504 Plan modifications and accommodations in work assigned to students, including medically fragile students, and in the assessment of work that students submit.

Each special education teacher, instructional aide, and related service provider is documenting their individual sessions and student progress via logs and teacher checklists. At the beginning of the distance learning, each team member was distributed a paper and electronic copy of the student IEP modifications and special education and related service programming.

III. FAMILY FOLLOW-UP

Case managers have been in contact with students' families via phone, email, and video conferencing throughout the duration of the virtual learning period. Special education and CST team meetings are being held one two times a week using a virtual platform.

IV. VIRTUAL IEP MEETINGS, EVALUATION, OR OTHER MEETINGS

Special education staff will attempt to hold virtual IEP meetings via a video-conferencing or other appropriate tool. For students engaged in an Initial Planning Process or the Re-Evaluation Process, special education staff members will attempt to hold virtual meetings when appropriate, or work to determine mutually agreeable scheduling after the closure has concluded. After reopening, special education staff will prioritize those meetings.

Virtual IEP meetings have been conducted in accordance with the Chapter 6A:14 code using Google Meets as a platform. In accordance with the DOE broadcast, no new evaluations are being conducted virtually; therefore, all new initial/current incomplete/re-evaluation testing will be conducted immediately after returning to a physical school environment.

Component 3 - Addressing ELL and Bilingual Needs Plan

I. PLAN TO MEET THE NEEDS OF ELL AND BILINGUAL STUDENTS

Teachers of students with home languages other than English will continue to provide materials appropriate to individual student levels of English language acquisition.

English Language Learners are continuing to receive ESL services throughout distance learning. Remote classes for ESL middle school instruction are held via Google Hangout Meetings. Students are provided iPads via the district's one-to-one initiative and all students have internet access at home. All classes continue to emphasize the four strands of English language acquisition (listening, speaking, reading, and writing) while also ensuring that students are socially and emotionally in a safe space.

Remote classes at the elementary level are supporting mainstream classroom instruction and assisting students with learning challenges. The ESL teacher attends classroom meetings via Google Hangout Meetings and holds ESL classes separately. Emphasis is on building vocabulary and maintaining reading and writing skills. Regular communication with the school guidance counselor and administration is in place to address any needs that arise.

II. DISTRICT COMMUNICATIONS WITH ELL FAMILIES

District communication remains constant with the continued option to translate all information on the district website. The district also utilizes translation services and the district alert system. Directions for classwork are provided in English and the first language as needed.

District-level communications regarding closure will be provided in multiple languages, as is typical practice, utilizing the school alert system, translation services, and other tools and resources.

III. ALTERNATE METHODS OF INSTRUCTION, DIFFERENTIATION, ACCESS TO TECHNOLOGY AND TROUBLESHOOTING STRATEGIES

The ESL teacher has been assisting content-area teachers to modify and differentiate classwork, readings, and assignments for ELLs. Modifications through distance learning include: individual meetings to re-teach content material as needed, the use of translation devices, assigning fewer questions, using simplified text, and partnering ELLs with native English speakers. Collaboration between teachers allows for maximized troubleshooting for learning concerns, technology issues, and other challenges.

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Component 4 - Safe Delivery of Meals Plan

SFA: Delaware Valley Regional High School (Consolidation Agreement)
Agreement #: 019-01050

Date meal distribution will begin: To Be Determined
Date meal distribution will end: To Be Determined

Central delivery site: Delaware Valley Regional High School

Meals to be claimed for reimbursement per day: 2 (breakfast and lunch)

Delaware Valley will work with our food service management company to provide a bagged breakfast and lunch to all eligible students on each day that the school is experiencing a health-related closure. Meals will be prepared by employees of the food service management company, all trained in safe food handling procedures and knowledgeable of school nutrition meal requirements. Meals are received at the central delivery site in individual bags containing all required meal components. Meals are transferred to a vehicle owned by Delaware Valley Regional High School. The Delaware Valley Regional High School transportation department delivers the meals to the students' homes. All persons who come in contact with the meals are wearing personal protective equipment (masks and gloves). There is no personal contact with the families at the homes. Bus drivers acknowledge their arrival by ringing a doorbell or knocking on the main entrance door. The meals are left outside at the main entrance.

Unless in receipt of Department of Health recommendations to take other measures, we will deliver bagged meals to eligible students upon request.

Meal content and claiming will comply with Department of Agriculture, Division of Food and Nutrition requirements. The District's food service vendor and District staff are trained and follow these standards throughout the school year. A roster of students receiving meals is being maintained to ensure accurate meal counts.

Students are receiving meals free of charge regardless of eligibility status in accordance with the Seamless Summer Option Program.

Families will have a telephone contact in the event of any issues, questions, or concerns.

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Component 5 - Length of Virtual or Remote Instruction Plan

I. VIRTUAL OR REMOTE LEARNING DAYS

The current 8 period 50 minute schedule will be condensed to 30 minute periods. Students will receive class invites on their Google Calendars located on their iPads beginning at 8:20 a.m. The general school day will run through the condensed in-person model of eight 30-minute blocks from 8:20 a.m. to 12:20 p.m. Students will be dismissed at 12:20 p.m. and be able to connect with their teachers via email during afternoon office hours. Special education and related services will be rendered throughout the typical school day. Please contact your teacher with any questions.

Preschool will run on a modified schedule in-person from 8:20-12:20 p.m. Should our local Covid-19 Activity Level Report place our status into RED (very high), a combination of activity packets and remote learning instruction will be provided.

Technology and alternate resources will be used to assist students in successfully completing their work. Teachers will modify said lessons/materials in accordance with student IEPs. Teachers will accommodate student Section 504 Plans.

II. PLAN TO MAXIMIZE STUDENT GROWTH

Remote learning is being designed to maximize student growth to the maximum extent possible. We will use Google Meets platform and live instructional sessions will be utilized in all grade levels. Student expectation meetings are gauged appropriately depending on the grade level of the student

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Component 6 - Attendance Plan

I. ALIGNMENT TO DISTRICT POLICY

The district follows the existing attendance [policy #5113](#). As in a typical school day, a parent will call out a student by contacting the school nurse (or email skane@frenchtownschool.org) if they are unable to participate in Remote Instruction for that day. The school nurse will then alert staff that the student is not present today for school.

A student is considered present in school as long as they attend a scheduled Google Meet and/or hand-in an assignment for the day. Attendance is a part of the student remote instruction grade and will be reflected in the student's individual grade.

II. FAMILY FOLLOW-UP FOR NON-PARTICIPATING STUDENTS

At the Middle School level, the student will receive email correspondence from the school when they have missed more than "3" Google Meets for each week of their scheduled instructional sessions. At the K-Grade 5 Level, we will address students who frequently miss their scheduled Google Meets with an email from the teacher, parent phone call, and correspondence from the school, if needed.

The district's philosophy, as it relates to promotion/retention/graduation, is to support the student and family to have a successful academic outcome during the period of virtual learning. This task is being accomplished collaboratively through Google Meetings with parents/guardians, check-ins with students, and ongoing electronic communication amongst school team members.

Students who continue to NOT hand in their class work will receive an email; the parent will also be copied on the email. Students who still continue to be inefficient in their studies will have a "Parent meeting with principal and team" to come up with a plan that will support both student and parent on the home front. The Principal will appoint additional check-in meetings with teachers for struggling students, as necessary. The Principal will appoint additional staff members to conduct Google Meets with students for struggling students, as deemed necessary.