

Paradigm Therapeutic School System Emergency Virtual Instructional Program Guide 2026-2027 School Year



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 (APSSD), hereinafter referred to as Local Educational Agencies (LEAs), to annually submit a proposed program for emergency virtual or remote instruction (Plan) to the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE). In July 2022, the NJDOE readopted N.J.A.C. 6A:32, School District Operations, with amendments and new rules which includes updates to the components of the LEA’s Plan. 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.A.C. 6A:32-13.1 & 13.2

Updated July 1, 2016

<https://www.paradigmtherapeuticdayschool.org/>

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All essential employees will be identified, and a list will be provided to the county office at the time of transition to full-remote instruction. At the time, the district would have to transition to virtual or remote instruction, the district name, school name, employee name, position title, and contact information would be supplied to the county office.

Introduction to Remote Instruction

Families play an essential role in supporting student success during periods of virtual or remote instruction. We encourage parents and caregivers to help establish consistent daily routines, provide a quiet learning space, and maintain regular communication with school staff. Students are expected to participate in scheduled virtual instruction and complete assigned work to the best of their ability.

The **Paradigm Therapeutic School System** remains committed to supporting each student's academic, social, emotional, and behavioral needs. Teachers, clinicians, and administrators will work closely with families throughout any period of remote learning to ensure students remain engaged and continue to receive the individualized supports they need.

This Emergency Virtual or Remote Instruction Plan outlines the school's procedures for:

- School schedules
- Academic instruction and student supports
- Technology access
- Virtual learning expectations
- Student well-being and family communication

School Schedules

In the event of an emergency, full-remote instruction will replace in-person learning. Students will follow their same schedules, with their current teacher(s), only through virtual means.

Additional clarification regarding instructional schedules will be provided to families by the building principal in the event that a school building needs to be placed on full remote instruction.

Equitable Access and Opportunity to Instruction

In the event of school closure, synchronous and asynchronous virtual learning instructional plans will be developed and continuously reviewed and modified to maximize student growth and learning. Paradigm Therapeutic Schools will follow a Virtual School Day schedule to provide for the necessary hours of instruction and time allotments for independent learning activities/homework. All teachers will remain available during their regular teaching periods to answer questions online. Teachers will prepare additional learning methodologies and will strive to maintain a positive learning environment. The schools will utilize Google Classroom as the platform for virtual learning.

Our schools are 1:1 with regard to individualized technology resources for students in grades 5-12.

For assessment purposes, teachers will post questions to Google Classroom to assess student understanding; they will be directed to refresh classroom often to view new posts. Teachers will open a Google Doc and have students type questions and answers in one document. For any Hearing-Impaired individuals, Google Hangout/Meet will be utilized; Meet has a closed caption feature and maintains chat transcripts.

Digital Divide: Based on an analysis of the school's pre-screening technology access survey, 100% of students have Internet access in the home environment, resulting in sufficient network access for a distance-learning program. At this time, it has been determined that a digital divide does not exist within our schools.

Addressing Special Education Needs

In the event of a school closure requiring virtual or remote instruction, all students will continue to receive the accommodations and modifications outlined in their Individualized Education Programs (IEPs). These accommodations, as developed by each student's home district, will be provided to the greatest extent possible during remote instruction.

Instructional staff, clinicians, and related service providers will collaborate to ensure students have access to their educational program while participating in virtual learning. Academic, social, emotional, and behavioral needs will continue to be monitored, and instructional supports will be adjusted as appropriate to meet each student's individual needs within the remote learning environment.

Related services, including counseling and other therapeutic supports, will be delivered through secure teletherapy platforms or other approved virtual methods whenever appropriate and feasible. Staff will maintain documentation of services provided, student participation, and progress toward IEP goals in accordance with applicable state and federal regulations.

Teachers, clinicians, and case managers from students' home districts, as appropriate, will communicate regularly with families through telephone, email, virtual meetings, and other available methods to support student engagement and ensure that IEP accommodations and services are implemented to the greatest extent possible during periods of remote instruction.

Addressing English Language Learners (ELL) Plan Needs

At the present time, Paradigm Therapeutic Schools do not enroll students who require English Language Learner (ELL) services. Therefore, no ELL-specific virtual instructional plan is necessary.

Should a student requiring ELL services enroll in the future, the school will collaborate with the student's home district to ensure that all required language supports and services are provided in accordance with the student's educational plan. Appropriate instructional accommodations, virtual supports, and communication with families would be implemented to ensure meaningful access to instruction during any period of remote or virtual learning.

Attendance Plan

In the event of school closure, district will ensure student attendance is tracked through current systems. Consideration will be provided to students experiencing difficulties due to any health-related issues, using creative, flexible methods. Virtual attendance will be taken via Google Document and added to Power School. Students attending the virtual platform must attend classes at designated real time schedules. Absences will be counted and logged per state statute. Paradigm policy regarding attendance impact on promotion, graduation, retention, and discipline will be followed. Teachers and administrators contact parents when students are not participating in virtual instruction and/or not submitting assignments.

Safe Delivery of Meals Plan

The Paradigm Therapeutic School system does not operate a school meal distribution program during periods of virtual or remote instruction. However, we recognize that access to nutritious meals is essential to student well-being and academic success.

During any period of school closure, teachers, clinicians, and administrators will maintain regular contact with students and families to monitor student well-being, including identifying any concerns related to food insecurity. If a family is determined to be in need of food assistance, school staff will work collaboratively with the family, CarePlus resources, the student's home district, and community agencies to connect them with available meal programs and other appropriate supports. When appropriate, the school will assist in coordinating resources to help ensure students have access to adequate nutrition throughout the period of remote instruction.

Facilities Plan

In the event of school closure, our schools will continue to comply with guidance in this area as outlined by the governor, NJDOH, and the local health department with regard to the health and safety of students. All learning spaces will be cleaned and sanitized daily; we will ensure adequate PPE, cleaning, and disinfecting supplies are on hand; HVAC replacement filters for all units are on hand; filters are changed at scheduled intervals not to exceed three months. State-of-the-art building management system (BMS) allows accurate monitoring of classrooms and additional learning areas. Buildings are monitored for outdoor temperature, fresh air intake, and learning space temperature. We will continue to conduct preventive maintenance measures on HVAC equipment to prevent poor equipment performance.

Extended Student Learning Opportunities

The Paradigm School System does not offer a formal after-school program. However, students requiring additional academic, behavioral, or social-emotional support during periods of virtual or remote instruction will receive individualized interventions based on their educational and therapeutic needs.

Teachers and clinicians will identify students who require additional assistance and will provide targeted support through virtual small-group instruction, individual check-ins, office hours, and scheduled intervention sessions as appropriate. Related service providers and clinicians will continue to offer counseling and therapeutic support through secure virtual platforms when feasible.

School staff will maintain regular communication with families to monitor student progress, engagement, and well-being. When additional supports are needed beyond those available through Paradigm, the school will collaborate with the student's home district and family to

identify appropriate resources and interventions to promote continued academic and social-emotional growth.

Childcare

The Paradigm Therapeutic School System does not operate before school or after-school care programs. Therefore, no such services would be affected during a period of school closure or virtual instruction.

Community Programming

The Paradigm Therapeutic School System does not operate a Community School program. Therefore, no Community School services would be affected during a period of school closure or virtual instruction.