



Ridgefield Public Schools

...valuing each and every student

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Ridgefield Schools Virtual or Remote Instruction Plan for the 2021-2022 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 2021-2022 School Year which was approved by the Board of Education on September 23, 2021.

Virtual or remote instruction implementation

Ridgefield is prepared for virtual or remote instruction through its one to one device initiative for students in Grades Five thru Twelve. All students in these grade levels have a district device and internet connectivity. Upon a virtual or remote school closure, every student in Grades Pre-Kindergarten thru Four will have access to a device. Families without internet connectivity will be assisted by the district in obtaining it. Through a district survey, Ridgefield was able to assist those without internet access with resources. Drive through device pick up times will be scheduled for dissemination and assistance with technology related issues. There is ample technology available to achieve a timely distribution.

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.

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.

Providing school lunch and breakfast during virtual or remote instruction

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.

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.