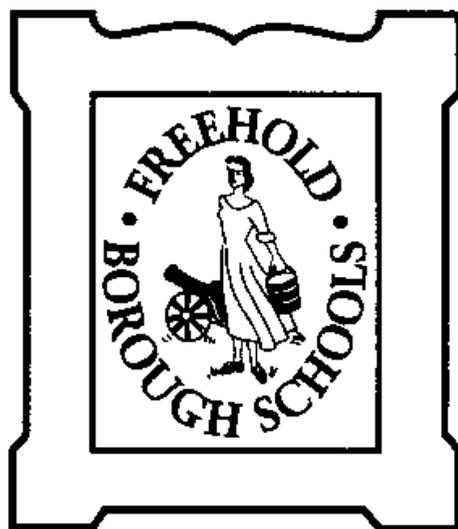


FREEHOLD BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

**280 Park Avenue
Freehold, NJ 07728
Monmouth County**



Chapter 27

Emergency Virtual or Remote Instruction Programs

School Year 2021 - 2022

Board of Education Adoption Date: October 11, 2021

Freehold Borough Board of Education

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Freehold Borough School District

District Mission

We will inspire the creativity and imagination of all students and empower them as knowledgeable, skillful, and confident learners who flourish and contribute willingly in a changing world.

Core Beliefs

We believe that:

- All people have inherent worth.
- Life-long learning is basic to the survival and advancement of society.
- The primary influence on the individual's development is the family in all its forms.
- Valuing diversity is essential to individual growth and the advancement of society.
- All individuals have strengths and human potential has no known limits.
- Democracy thrives when individuals accept responsibility for their choices.
- Being trustworthy builds trust.
- Creativity and imagination are essential for society to flourish.
- A safe environment is essential for the well-being of the individual and for society to flourish

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Goal and Purpose

The goal and purpose of this plan is to satisfy requirements of the state legislation A-3904. 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, hereinafter referred to as Local Educational Agencies (LEA), to annually submit a proposed program for emergency virtual or remote instruction (Plan) to the New Jersey Department of Education (Department). 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.S.A. 18A:7F-9.

This plan will 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 day of virtual or remote instruction, if instituted under the plan approved by the Commissioner of Education, is considered the equivalent of a full day of school attendance for the purposes of meeting State and local graduation requirements, awarding of course credit, and such other matters as determined by the Commissioner of Education.

General Information about Virtual or Remote Instruction

The district will continue to provide academic instruction in the event that schools are closed for a long period of time due to emergency or health-related reasons. Continued instruction will take place through virtual or remote instruction, also known as **Virtual Learning**. Virtual Learning is an educational experience that is enhanced through utilizing computers and/or the internet to provide instruction in an online environment. This is helpful when access to school facilities become limited or unavailable.

Staff and students will continue to follow their regular bell schedule to fully immerse and engage in virtual learning.

Information for Students and Parents

1. District and school websites will serve as the main hub for sharing updates, information, and directions for students and parents to complete schoolwork and assignments.
2. Specific updates and information for instruction and schoolwork should be accessed through their Teacher's Page, available within the school's website.
3. Students and parents can and should communicate with teachers via email and/or Google Classroom.
4. All students are provided opportunities to bring home technology device and/or access to the internet.
5. All students are expected to be virtually on standby following their regular schedule and ready to receive instruction, support, ask questions, and interact with their teachers. Students and parents should consult with teachers if unable to participate in virtual learning following their regular schedule to discuss how to complete work assignments.

Instructional Plan

1. Teachers and students will follow their regular schedule during virtual learning. That means ELA, Math, Science, Social Studies, and VAPA lessons are taking place during their normal scheduled times.
2. Teacher Pages are updated daily, and instructions/directions for virtual learning are provided.
3. Students can utilize their textbooks and workbooks with specific guidance from teachers.
4. Students will utilize online resources with specific guidance from teachers.
5. Grades PK – 1: Students in this grade band may not be fully developmentally competent in utilizing computers and technology to support virtual learning. Therefore, teachers and staff may send home students and parents with work packets, textbooks, and workbooks. Specific instructions and directions are addressed to parents/guardian, explaining what schoolwork needs to be completed and what

- resources to use to support their children. Teacher Pages are utilized to outline and explain schoolwork and assignments. Parents should get in touch with teachers when needed about any of the assignments.
6. Grades 2 – 8: Students in this grade band are fully competent in utilizing computers and technology to support virtual learning. Teacher Pages include link to their Google Classroom, the main platform for virtual learning.

Grade Specific Information

Grade PreK - 1

Staff members in PreK – 1 may provide students and parents with work packets, textbooks, and/or workbooks to support Virtual Learning. Information regarding pick up of work packets and materials will be shared via Teacher Pages (website) and School Website. Teacher Pages (website) will be utilized to outline and explain schoolwork and assignments, reflecting their full day (bell) schedule. Staff members ensure that parents are able to get in touch with them when needed through email and use of appropriate phone apps such as Class Dojo and Talking Points. Student login information for all online resources will be provided to parents/guardians for those who have access to internet and technology devices. Through Teacher Pages, specific instructions and directions will be addressed to parents/guardian explaining what schoolwork needs to be completed and what resources to use to support their children.

Grade 2 - 8

Staff members in Grades 2 - 8 will follow their full day (bell) schedule and provide differentiated approach during virtual learning using synchronous and asynchronous learning. These varied approaches to virtual learning help in introducing and explicitly covering new topics and contents to students while giving them opportunities to complete their work independently. This approach to virtual learning also allows teachers to differentiate and individualized instruction based on students' needs.

1. Synchronous and Asynchronous Learning

Following their full bell schedule, teachers are available to provide instructions. Synchronous learning entails teachers engaging all students in a lesson simultaneously. Asynchronous learning entails teachers giving students time to work in groups and/or independent work while he/she checks in with students for differentiation and additional instructional support.

2. Synchronous Learning

Synchronous learning involves the teacher and the entire class (students) engaging in instruction via a web conferencing tool. It creates a virtual classroom that allows students to ask questions and the teacher to answer them instantly. Teachers who implement synchronous learning allow students to participate and learn in real time and to involve in live discussions. Examples of synchronous learning include the following: video/web conferencing (Google Meet), live chat through Google Meet, and Google Classroom.

3. Asynchronous Learning

Asynchronous learning is a self-study and student-centered approach. The teacher and students are not involved in real time virtual interaction or discussion. The teacher may post lectures, recorded videos/tutorials, assignments and classwork electronically for students to complete and submit on a set time. Students do the work on their own and at their own pace. In doing the work, students may seek teacher guidance through email, video conferencing, phone conferencing, and real time comments in Google applications. Examples of asynchronous learning include the following: pre-recorded videos/webinar, email, and Google Classroom discussion boards.

4. When to Use Synchronous and Asynchronous Learning

A combination of Synchronous and Asynchronous Learning will best support student success in a virtual learning setting. But understanding when to use each approach is the key. Teachers are available at all times, following their bell schedule, to provide instructions.

When to Use Synchronous Learning

- Whole-class Discussion
 - Starting a new topic or content – This serves as the time for direct and explicit instruction. The teacher covers new topics and content with detailed explanations and examples. The entire class participates actively and should be engaged in virtual discussion.
 - Going over new assignments – The teacher provides detailed instructions on the assignments and work that the whole class is expected to complete. Students have the opportunity to ask questions and clarifications.
- Other uses: Morning Meetings and Class Meetings

When to Use Asynchronous Learning

- Small Group Work and Independent Work
 - Giving students time to complete work – After giving direct instruction and explicit directions on assignments, students complete the work on their own, or with their peers as assigned by teachers. But students know how to access and reach out to teachers when needed and vice versa.
- One-on-one or Small Group Support
 - Individual or small group conferencing – The teacher should reach out to students who need additional support for one-on-one or small group instruction after whole-class discussion. The rest of the class is working on their own.

Technology and Internet Connectivity Support

All students are provided with technology device to engage in Virtual Learning. Students in PreK and Kindergarten are provided with iPads and students in Grades 1 – 8 are provided with Chromebooks. In addition, family members who need internet connectivity have access to one of the district's hot spots. For any question or information regarding technology and/or internet connectivity, please send an email to techstaff@freeholdboro.k12.nj.us. You may also visit the district's Technology website at <https://www.freeholdboro.k12.nj.us/Domain/41>.

Food Service and Distribution

The district will continue to serve breakfast and lunch to eligible students through the Grab and Go Pick-up Procedures. Students and parents will pick up their boxed/bagged breakfast and lunch on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 8:00 – 12:00nn at Park Avenue Complex Door #15. Each pick up will be for two days: two breakfasts and two lunches. Specific instructions and directions on the times and locations of food distribution will be sent home via email or phone blast. Additional information and procedures regarding food services and distribution schedule will be posted on the district's website at <https://www.freeholdboro.k12.nj.us/Domain/1>.