

**Virtual
Instruction Program
2026-2027**

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Introduction

NJ Governor Murphy, in April of 2020, 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 LEAs can utilize virtual or remote instruction to satisfy the 180-day requirement pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-9.requirement.

In the event that the state opts to transition our district from in-person to virtual instruction due to public health and/ or safety conditions, we are prepared for staff, students, and families to transition smoothly.

- Our teaching staff and students (K-12) have all been provided with district devices.
- The teaching staff has been instructed to integrate Google Classroom into their daily in-person instruction to provide an improved learning experience within the classroom as well as prepare us for a potential transition to virtual instruction.
- Google Classroom provides our teachers and students with a singular location for assignments, communication, and live instruction.
- Those students who do not have internet access available to them in their homes will be provided a district hotspot during virtual learning.
- If students or staff have an issue with their device or internet connectivity, they can submit a work order to helpdesk@twpunionschools.org

It is our goal as a district to ensure that all of our students, whether in person or virtual, have access to world-class instruction. COVID-19 helped us grow and prepare for potential future situations that may require a transition to virtual instruction. Through our experience and growth, we are confident in our efforts to maintain rigor in instruction and high expectations. While we may all prefer in-person instruction, it is our responsibility as a district to have a well-designed plan in the event that it is no longer safe or possible.

EQUITABLE ACCESS TO INSTRUCTION PLAN

The district will continue to address the learning needs of all our students. All students in kindergarten through twelfth grade will be provided with a district device (e.g., Chromebook). Students may also have textbooks/workbooks distributed by their teachers and online access to subject content materials. The district will also use online library ebooks via MackinVia, the Union Public Library, and NJ State Library (elibraryNJ). In addition to being a 1:1 Chromebook district, the current instructional technology resources may continue to be in place to assist our students further:

1. Elementary: PearDeck, BrainPop and BrainPop Jr., KAMI, Wixie, GoGuardian, Clever, and subject specific digital resources.
2. Middle School: PearDeck, BrainPop, KAMI, GoGuardian, Clever, and subject specific digital resources.
3. High School: PearDeck, BrainPop, KAMI, GoGuardian, Clever, and subject specific digital resources.

Pending federal, state, and local health guidelines, paper packets may be provided. The district will use i-Ready, IXL diagnostic, which are currently administered 3x/year, to measure student growth and learning in a virtual or remote instruction environment.

Building administrators and teachers will make every effort to be in constant communication with families to ensure their digital needs are addressed. In order to determine any digital divide issues, families can contact either the help desk or central office administration to direct their requests. Technical assistance will be available through our Help Desk at helpdesk@twpunionschools.org for all staff and students. Based on the received requests, the district will evaluate any digital divide needs.

Virtual Learning Schedule

As stated previously, students and teachers will engage in learning using their district devices. This will require students to engage with their teacher(s) and peers for the same period of time as the brick and mortar school day (full or half-day schedules). In the event we need to transition to virtual learning, schedules will be provided by building administration for the specific grade levels: K-5, 6-8, and 9-12 (Appendix 1). The Child Study Team or 504 teams will determine any additional programs, supports, and/or services to address individual students' needs.

Virtual Learning Guidelines

Students are expected to meet teaching deadlines as directed by the teaching staff. Since deadlines may occur online and not necessarily during a class or session, a student's absence would not excuse the student's responsibility to meet the deadline on assignments given prior to the student's absence. Students will be expected to engage in learning during the regularly scheduled hours of the school day. During virtual learning sessions, the following guidelines will be in effect:

1. Students in grades K-12 are expected to bring any devices (Chromebooks, etc.) or instructional materials (textbooks, etc.) home in the event a shutdown announcement is made during the school day.
2. Students must attend the entire class/virtual session, return digitally when directed, and/or complete the asynchronous learning activity.
3. Students are expected to have their Chromebooks fully charged and access to the charger.

4. Students will be required to have their cameras on and be visible on camera during whole-class sessions, break-out sessions, and support sessions unless otherwise approved by building administration.
5. Students will have their first and last names as identifiers during each live session and use their Township of Union school account.
6. Students may be denied access to class if they do not log in with their district email account.
7. Students will have blank or non-descript backgrounds. Students with distracting backgrounds will be asked to remove them.
8. Students will set up a workspace and commit to a location for the entire session. The workspace should have all materials needed set up and ready for use.
9. Recording of live lessons by students or teachers is prohibited. Any use of a teacher's or other students' image is always inappropriate.
10. Students may use the chat feature to communicate with the class when "mute all" is on. Expectations for conduct extend to the chat feature.
11. Students will abide by the class rules and expectations that their teachers have outlined.

Preschoolers

1. Teachers will continue to use Teaching Strategies GOLD and/or Creative Curriculum in alignment with the New Jersey Preschool Learning Standards to meet the learning needs of all preschool children to maximize student growth.
2. Teachers will provide students and parents/families via Google Classroom & Teaching Strategies with daily learning activities that support the whole child.
3. Parents/families will continue to submit lesson activity documentation/observations to teachers. Teachers will use submitted documentation/observations from parents/families to assess and provide individualized instruction for all students and parents/families.
4. Teachers will continue to modify selected activities and extend upon children's learning needs including MLLs and students with disabilities with individualized instruction.
5. Parents/families have access to all instructional plans via email, class communication systems, classroom websites, and - when applicable - Teaching Strategies GOLD family resources.

PE/Health

It is important that schools continue to provide opportunities for students to be physically active throughout the school day, regardless of the instruction format.

1. Physical Education and Health Education teachers will continue to use Google Apps remote learning instruction, live virtual teaching, pre-recorded classes and activities.
2. Physical Education and Health teachers will ensure classroom physical activity opportunities offered are inclusive of all abilities and equitably engage students from all backgrounds.

Athletics and Extracurricular Activities

The Township of Union Public Schools believes that it is essential to the physical, mental and social-emotional well-being of Union students to safely re-engage in extracurricular experiences, physical activity and athletic competition.

1. In the case of virtual or remote instruction interscholastic athletics will follow all New Jersey Interscholastic Athletic Association guidelines and procedures.
2. In-person practice and competitions will be regulated by the NJSIAA and the state and local board of health.
3. Students will be actively participating in class during the school day to participate in athletics and extracurricular activities.
4. Extracurricular activities can be virtual and or in-person if it is deemed safe for the students to return. By using Google Meet and Classroom, the student can hold virtual meetings with advisors and coaches and participate in virtual workouts.

Delivery of Instruction Expectations: Grades K-12

1. All teachers are expected to bring any devices or instructional materials home daily during in-person instruction to ensure preparedness should a shutdown announcement be made after-hours.
2. All teachers will continue to use Google Meet for live virtual instruction and parent conferencing.
 - a. Teachers are expected to have “asynchronous emergency lesson/activities” posted and updated in their Google Classrooms at all times throughout the school year. Should a teacher be absent from work on a virtual instruction day, the teacher should make every effort to remind students of the asynchronous emergency activities by posting in Google Classroom. In the event that classroom instruction needs to be provided asynchronously, students should engage in those activities.
 - b. When the district has short-term closures of less than three days, asynchronous instruction will be permitted with the following exceptions:
 - i. K-5 classrooms must meet for live virtual instruction at the start of the school day to review the daily schedule and instructions and prior to the designated lunch period to review any questions.
 - ii. 6-12 classrooms must meet for live virtual instruction at the start of the class period to review the instructions and at the end of the period to review any questions.
 - iii. Any classroom teachers utilizing asynchronous instruction must also be available throughout the day via email to answer any questions in a timely manner.
3. All teachers will use the Google Meet breakout room function for small group meetings with students, to provide opportunities for the students to collaborate in groups or provide support to students who have questions.
4. All teachers will continue to use Google Classroom as our learning management system (LMS). This will provide access for all students to engage, create work, access materials, and communicate with their teachers.
5. All teachers will continue to work in collaboration at the grade level in response to individual students’ academic and emotional needs (MLL, Special Ed., and G&T).
6. All teachers will continue to provide assignments that focus on a variety of standards-based skills.
7. All teachers will continue to focus on essential grade-level standards needed to prepare students for the completion of the grade-level.
8. All teachers will continue to provide support and engage students using resources as documented on the course’s curriculum guide as well as district-approved supplemental

resources (adapted text, reading interactive, videos, audio readings, supplemental digital resources, etc.).

9. All teachers will continue to assess students' learning through formative and summative assessments (may include individual and/or group presentations; PBLs, Ted Talks, writing assignments, etc.).
10. All teachers will continue to distribute assignments, make announcements and send feedback to students via Google Apps to provide real-time support to students.
11. All teachers will continue to collaborate with the case manager and related service providers by using Google Meet.
12. All teachers will have regular communication with students, parents and families. If students are absent for two (2) or more classes, the class teachers will contact their parents/guardians, school counselors, and school administrators, if necessary. Teachers will keep a daily log of communication with students and their families identifying the student they are discussing, the reason for the communication, who they spoke with, and the result of the communication.
13. All teachers will notify the student's school counselor if they cannot reach a student and if a student is consistently absent from the virtual classroom.

SPECIAL EDUCATION NEEDS PLAN

1. IEPs are implemented to the greatest extent possible using the Google Suite Resources. These resources will be used for classroom instruction, provision of related services, and meetings. Adaptive devices and assistive technology will be provided per IEPs. Any additional adaptive devices or assistive technology that is needed going forward or does not go home with the student will be provided for parent pick-up at the home school pending federal, state and local health guidelines, unless the assistive technology can be provided virtually. Additionally, asynchronous and synchronous instruction is provided with digital and hard-copy materials and resources.
2. Case managers will articulate student needs per the IEP to relevant staff, and staff will sign off that the articulation occurred. Progress reporting toward the goals and objectives of the IEP are provided and available to parents via the Genesis Parent Portal and hard copies will be made available to parents if needed. Parents, teachers, related service providers and case managers have access to Genesis gradebook. Related service provider logs are maintained. Teachers, case managers, and related service providers have access to IEPs, including accommodations and modifications via Genesis and Frontline IEP.
3. Case managers and related service providers will contact each parent for students on their caseload regarding the remote learning plan. Ongoing communication with parents from teachers, case managers and related service providers will occur via email, Google Suite resources and telephone. Interpreting and Translation services will be provided for parents if needed.
4. IEP meetings, evaluations and other meetings to identify, evaluate and/or reevaluate students with disabilities will continue virtually to the greatest extent possible in accordance with NJ Special Education Code and per federal, state, and local health guidelines. With parental agreement, meetings will continue virtually. Virtual signatures for parental consent will be obtained through Frontline IEP or via email.

MLL & BILINGUAL NEEDS PLAN

ESL teachers utilize Google Classroom and follow the schedule provided by the building. All ESL teachers are required to have virtual ESL lessons (aligned with State and Federal requirements) and meetings with students. ESL teachers follow the curriculum and standards for ESL instruction as directed by the district and as aligned with State and Federal requirements. Teachers utilize district-approved websites such as Imagine Learning to enhance and differentiate instruction in English for various levels of language abilities. Teachers utilize Google Translate to assist with translation and communication with parents and guardians. As stated previously, the district provides a device for every student in K-12 including MLLs. Teachers utilize the curriculum and through their assignments and assessments, make modifications to their lessons. They teach all four language domains: listening, reading, writing and speaking. ESL teachers will continue to work with small groups to help differentiate for the students. Throughout the school year, the district will engage staff in various professional development opportunities related to equity and cultural responsiveness virtually.

ATTENDANCE PLAN

All students are to be present at all times during a live lesson as directed by staff. Staff will take attendance utilizing Genesis. Parents will be asked to call and/or email the school nurse if their child is absent. Teachers will record daily attendance and communicate any absences to the (attendance) secretary and building administrator. When teachers are unable to make any contact (phone, email, etc.) or the student has been absent/not signing in to class per the Attendance Policy, the secretary and building administrator will immediately be contacted. School counselors can assist with this. If they too are unable to make any contact, the School Resource Officers and/or Security Guards will be contacted to conduct wellness checks prior to contacting DCP&P. In the event SROs are unavailable, the building administrator and the Security Manager conduct the wellness checks. In terms of retention, promotion and graduation, attendance will most likely not be a factor that would negatively impact retention, promotion or graduation. To assist in preventing learning loss to the best of our ability, it is important that students are fully and actively engaged in the learning process for the entire school day.

SAFE DELIVERY OF MEALS PLAN

When the district moves to virtual learning for 3 or more days, meal distribution will continue, at a minimum, at the following schools: Union High School (Main Entrance), Jefferson Elementary School (Main Entrance), Franklin Elementary (Playground parking lot), and Washington Elementary School (Teacher's parking lot). The meals will be served on the ground floor of Union High School, Franklin Elementary School, Jefferson Elementary School and Washington Elementary School at a table with IDEA accessibility.

1. Grab-and-go breakfast and lunches will be distributed daily on school days between 10 am and 12:30 pm. Grab-and-go breakfast and lunch will be served at the same time.
2. The package will consist of lunch for that day and breakfast for the next day. Families may pick up 2 days' worth of meals every other day if they choose. The distribution companies may be unable to meet the supply needs of the district in order to offer 5 days' worth of meals at a pick-up as allowed by the NJ Dept. of Agriculture.

3. CDC social distancing procedures will be followed if necessary.
4. A security guard wearing a mask and gloves will be placed at each site to ensure that people are following the guidance.
5. Staff serving the meals will wear masks and gloves at all times. Food will be kept inside the building until students/families come for their meal(s).
6. Staff will take requests for the number of meals and place the meal(s) on the table. Students/families will take the meal(s) off the service table. Throughout this process, it is recommended that a 6-foot distance be maintained. There are cones and markers designed to ensure social distancing. The district encourages social distancing procedures and asks students/families to wear a mask at all times.

FACILITIES PLAN

Access to district buildings will be limited. Facilities staff will be present in each building daily to monitor the mechanical functions and to continually clean and sanitize areas that have been accessed by other district staff. Facilities staff is continuing preventative maintenance efforts, particularly on the HVAC systems, to ensure that air quality is good. Extensive cleaning will be planned for the summer months and the district has purchased additional disinfecting/sanitizing products.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- A. The district's K-8 Gifted and Talented (G&T) program will continue to occur in a remote setting. Students will receive G&T instruction in a virtual environment based on the corresponding K-5 and 6-8 schedules. Lastly, dual enrollment programs, such as Kean COMM1402 and Kean Scholar Academy, will be conducted according to the University's guidelines.
- B. Social & Emotional Learning for Staff and Students: [Emergency Closing Resources](#)
- C. When the district moves to extended virtual learning of three (3) or more days, for the Title I Extended Learning Program, students will continue to receive their instruction in a virtual environment. All content area Title I teachers will instruct their classrooms remotely following their individual schedule. All after-school tutoring programs will continue using the Google Classroom platform. For students identified to attend an Extended School Year Program, remote instruction will be facilitated by the content-area teacher.
- D. 21st CCLC Grant Program will continue to operate similarly to the Title I Extended Learning Programs.
- E. The district will facilitate after-school extended learning opportunities (e.g., tutoring, academic clubs, etc.) as much as possible in a virtual format after school day hours in the remote setting. Information about these opportunities will be communicated by the building administration and/or Central Office. Regarding Dual Enrollment, see [letter A](#) above. Extra-curricular programs may resume using education platforms like Google Meet and Classroom, allowing students to access these programs and advisors in a virtual setting if the schools move to remote learning. Interscholastic athletics may resume using the requirements set forth by the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association.
- F. Transportation Guidelines:
 - a. The following protocols are contingent upon the existence of a pandemic or similar emergency: Hand sanitizing stations will be available at the entrance door and inside the

break room. Employees will sanitize and enter the building through one door, sign in and exit through the other door. No personnel will be allowed to remain in the break room unless they follow social distancing guidelines (e.g., 6 feet apart). When getting fuel, drivers should wipe down the keypad and fuel handle before using them with a sanitizing wipe. Employees will be required to wear face masks and gloves while in the vehicle. Students should stand six feet apart while waiting for the bus. They must sanitize their hands before boarding and wear their face mask. If they do not have a mask, one will be provided. Students will board back to front taking every other row and sitting by the window. Siblings may sit together in the same row. Rows will be marked where students should not sit. They must face forward. Windows will be cracked for ventilation. Between transporting each tier, bus seats, seatbelts and rails will be wiped down with a sanitizing wipe. After the morning routes and at the close of each day, buses will be sanitized fully using a sanitizing gun.

- G. There is currently no plan to provide childcare.
- H. Community Programming: When the district moves to extended virtual learning of three (3) or more days, information sessions for parents and guardians regarding various topics (FAFSA, graduation requirements, college applications, etc.) may be conducted virtually. Any community events may not be held due to closure and safety protocols.

ESSENTIAL EMPLOYEES

The district will update its current essential employee list at the time of our transition to remote or virtual instruction. These employees will be notified that they are expected to report in-district:

- Central Office Employees
- Buildings and Grounds
- Transportation
- Security
- Administration

APPENDIX I

BUILDING SCHEDULES

High School Virtual Schedule

Time	A - Day	B - Day
7:35-7:45	Homeroom	Homeroom
7:50 - 8:40	Period 1	Period 2
8:45 - 9:35	Period 3	Period 4
9:40 - 10:30	Period 9	Student Support Time
10:35 - 11:25	Period 5	Period 6
11:30 - 12:20	Period 7	Period 8
12:25 - 2:35	Student Support Time	Student Support Time

Middle School Virtual Schedule

6th Grade

BMS	DAILY	SCHEDULE
6th Grade	A	B
8:00 - 8:08	HR	HR
8:13 - 9:06	1	6
9:11 - 10:04	2	7
10:09 - 11:02	3	8
11:07 - 12:00	4	9
12:00 - 1:00	5/LUNCH	5/LUNCH
1:00 - 2:30	Intervention, Remediation, Enrichment, & Social Emotional Support Period	Intervention, Remediation, Enrichment, & Social Emotional Support Period

7th Grade

7th Grade	A	B
8:00 - 8:08	HR	HR
8:13 - 9:06	1	5
9:11 - 10:04	2	7
10:09 - 11:02	3	8
11:07 - 12:00	4	9
12:00 - 1:00	6/LUNCH	6/LUNCH
1:00 - 2:30	Intervention, Remediation, Enrichment, & Social Emotional Support Period	Intervention, Remediation, Enrichment, & Social Emotional Support Period

8th Grade

8th Grade	A	B
8:00 - 8:08	HR	HR
8:13 - 9:06	1	5
9:11 - 10:04	2	6
10:09 - 11:02	3	8
11:07 - 12:00	4	9
12:00 - 1:00	7/LUNCH	7/LUNCH
1:00 - 2:30	Intervention, Remediation, Enrichment, & Social Emotional Support Period	Intervention, Remediation, Enrichment, & Social Emotional Support Period

Elementary School Virtual Schedule (K-5)

8:45am - 1:00pm	1:00pm - 2:20pm	2:20pm - 3:00pm
LIVE synchronous lessons with classroom teachers and special area teachers.	Lunch & Teacher Prep Period	Asynchronous lessons, W.I.N., SEL, Small Group Instruction, and G & T, RTI