



**1st Cerebral Palsy of New Jersey**  
Unique needs deserve a unique school

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# **1st Cerebral Palsy of New Jersey**

## **Emergency Virtual or Remote Instruction Plan**

**October 29, 2021**

# 1ST CEREBRAL PALSY OF NEW JERSEY: EMERGENCY VIRTUAL OR REMOTE INSTRUCTION PLAN

## **FOREWORD**

1st Cerebral Palsy of NJ recognizes the vital importance for students and staff to return to in-person instruction for the 2021-2022 school year in order to best ensure the learning and skill development of our students. In order to minimize risks, a thoughtful approach reflecting the unique issues affecting the health and well-being of the entire school community is needed. Open communication and flexibility will be key.

## **INTRODUCTION**

In April 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 LEAs 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 the students of 1<sup>st</sup> Cerebral Palsy of NJ continue to receive high quality, standards-based instruction, our school will annually submit a proposed program for virtual or remote instruction to the Commissioner of Education. *This plan will be implemented during a school 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, is considered the equivalent of a full day of school attendance

1st Cerebral Palsy of NJ recognizes and values the importance of maximizing student learning while balancing this priority with protecting the safety and well-being of all students and staff. The guidance provided by the NJDOE emphasizes that it is critical that individual schools have the flexibility to create customized plans that allow them to meet the unique needs of their students and staff. Safeguarding the latitude for responsible, local decision making and planning is imperative for all schools but is absolutely essential for schools that meet the needs of students with disabilities.

## **PANDEMIC RESPONSE TEAM**

1st Cerebral Palsy of NJ established a committee including a cross section of administrators and staff to contribute to our school program. In addition there is regular communication with families including surveys such as accessibility to technology and satisfaction with the school program.

### Team Members

Patrick Colligan - Executive Director

Keith Rygiel - Principal

Danielle Van Beuzekom - Human Resources

Dr. Barry Prystowsky - School Physician

Mary Brennan - School Social Worker

Ricardo Coutinho - Maintenance, Department Head

Toni Tierney - Education, Department Head

Joanne Bundonis - Physical Therapy, Department Head

Kim Kerney - Speech Therapy, Department Head

Kayla Patterson - Occupational Therapy, Department Head

## **DEMOGRAPHICS**

1st Cerebral Palsy of NJ is providing full-day, full-time, in-person instruction for the 2021-2022 school year. As of October 2021, there are 64 active students on our school roster.

## **DELIVERY OF INSTRUCTION**

1st Cerebral Palsy of NJ has provided a school calendar that ensures the requirements of a 180-day school year are met. All students will be provided *at least* four hours of instructional contact time per day. In-person instruction will consist of a 5 day per week, block schedule (Monday-Friday, 9:00am-3:00pm).

In the event that virtual or remote instruction needs to be implemented, each student will continue to follow their traditional schedule of instruction and related services (See Appendix A). Teachers and related services providers (physical therapists, speech therapists, occupational therapists) will provide real-time, synchronous instruction. The schedules will be digitally re-shared with families and guardians to ensure they have easy access to the unique links for remote learning rooms. Classroom teachers will record all student attendance in our school information system which will be reported to the sending school districts.

## **DIGITAL DIVIDE**

Throughout the distance learning process 1st Cerebral Palsy of NJ has maintained ongoing communication with our families to address any technology issues. All remote learning activities and correspondences with families have been documented in individual student logs. An initial "Home Instruction Preparedness Survey" was shared with our families to assess technology needs. Throughout the process staff has been in contact with families to assess their ongoing digital needs. 1st Cerebral Palsy of NJ has loaned families various pieces of equipment including iPads, laptops, and Chromebooks (See Appendix B). If a family expressed difficulty with internet connectivity their case manager and local school district was notified to provide additional assistance.

## **MEALS**

1st Cerebral Palsy of NJ has a contracted food service provider which supplies all meals in individual, pre-packaged sealed containers. In the event of a prolonged school closure, the students' sending school districts will be notified. Meals would be available for pickup at our school location in Belleville or the location of the corresponding home school in their sending school district.

## **BOARD APPROVAL**

This plan was approved at the October 20, 2021 board meeting.

**Appendix A: Sample Student Synchronous Virtual Schedule**

STUDENT: SAMPLE

YEAR: 2021 - 2022

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9:00	Breakfast / Tech Skills	Breakfast / Tech Skills	Breakfast / Tech Skills	Breakfast / Tech Skills	Breakfast / Tech Skills
9:30	Morning Meeting (Math/LA/SS)	Morning Meeting (Math/LA/SS)	Morning Meeting (Math/LA/SS)	Speech Therapy	Morning Meeting (Math/LA/SS)
10:00	Morning Meeting (Math/LA/SS)	Morning Meeting (Math/LA/SS)	Occupational Therapy	Morning Meeting (Math/LA/SS)	Morning Meeting (Math/LA/SS)
10:30	Language Arts	Language Arts	Language Arts	OT/Speech Group	Occupational Therapy
11:00	Health	Math	Math	OT/Speech Group	Math
11:30	Lunch/Recess	Lunch/Recess	Lunch/Recess	Lunch/Recess	Lunch/Recess
12:00	Lunch/Recess	Lunch/Recess	Lunch/Recess	Lunch/Recess	Lunch/Recess
12:30	Physical Therapy	Physical Therapy	Adapted Phy Ed.	Language Arts	Physical Therapy
1:00	Science	Math	Adapted Phy Ed.	Language Arts	Math
1:30	Adapted Phy Ed.	Social Studies	Art	Math	Science
2:00	Adapted Phy Ed.	Social Studies	Art	Math	Speech Therapy
2:30	Dismissal / Tech Skills	Dismissal / Tech Skills	Dismissal / Tech Skills	Dismissal / Tech Skills	Dismissal / Tech Skills

**Appendix B: Equipment Release Form**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Equipment to be borrowed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Serial Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

I, \_\_\_\_\_, am requesting to borrow the above equipment from the 1st Cerebral Palsy of New Jersey. I understand the following:

Please initial each statement below:

\_\_\_\_\_ I agree that this device will only be used for educational purposes as assigned by the teacher and/or therapists of my 1st Cerebral Palsy of NJ student.

\_\_\_\_\_ I agree that I will not install any apps or software unless directed to do so by a teacher or therapist for the educational purposes of my student.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that this device is only to be used for my student who attends 1st Cerebral Palsy of New Jersey.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that I am responsible for the borrowed device and will return it in the condition in which it was loaned to me. If the device is not returned in the condition it was loaned penalties may occur.

\_\_\_\_\_ The loaned device will be inspected upon its return including all history and memory. Please be sure to ONLY use it for educational purposes for the student from 1st Cerebral Palsy of New Jersey.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date