



LEA Guidance for Virtual or Remote Instruction Plan
Attestation for the 2021-2022 SY

Contact Information

County: Camden

Name of District, Charter School, APSSD or Renaissance School Project: ECO Charter School

Name of Chief School Administrator or Lead Person: Dr. Antoinette C. Dendtler

Chief School Administrator or Lead Person Contact Number: (856) 963-2627

The New Jersey Department of Education (Department) is providing the following guidance pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-9(c) to assist districts in the development of their 2021-2022 virtual or remote instruction plans. The Department encourages LEAs to reflect on the previous school year to improve elements of the prior year’s plan to provide the most substantive education, including related services, to their students in the event of a district closure.

For each of the three areas below, the chief school administrator or lead person will either mark “yes,” confirming that the information is in the plan and list the corresponding plan page number, or mark “no” if the information is not contained in the plan. The chief school administrator or lead person is expected to provide an explanation to the county office of education for all areas marked “no.”

By October 29, 2021, the chief school administrator or lead person must submit a board-approved LEA Guidance for Virtual or Remote Instruction Plan for 2021-2022 along with this form to their county office of education. At the time of submission to the county office of education, the plan must be posted on the LEA’s website. Plans will be reviewed in each county office of education on a rolling basis with an electronic response communicated within two business days of receipt.

The plan outlines how virtual or remote instruction will be provided to students who may not have access to sufficient broadband, or to any technology required for virtual or remote instruction.

The program should account for measuring and addressing any ongoing digital divide that exists, whether it be network access or lack of sufficient access to devices.

Page Number: 1

District Confirmation: Yes No

County Confirmation: Yes No



The plan addresses the impact of virtual or remote instruction on the school lunch and school breakfast programs.

The plan should contain how the LEA will provide continued safe delivery of meals to eligible students.

Page Number: 2

District Confirmation: Yes No

County Confirmation: Yes No

The plan contains the required length of a virtual or remote instruction day.

The minimum hours of instruction for a virtual or remote day is four hours excluding lunch and recess.

Page Number: 1

District Confirmation: Yes No

County Confirmation: Yes No

Plan Posted on LEA Website

Is the plan posted on your website? Yes No

Website link: https://ecocharterschool.org/state-reporting/

APSSD Only

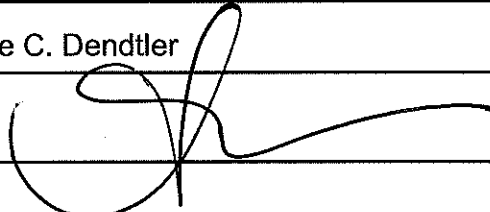
Was your plan shared with all sending districts? Yes No

Board Approval

Date (mm/dd/yyyy): 10/25/2021

Name and Signature of Chief School Administrator or Lead Person

Chief School Administrator or Lead Person Name: Dr. Antoinette C. Dendtler

Chief School Administrator or School Lead Person Signature: 

Date (mm/dd/yyyy): 10/26/2021

Date of Submission to County Office

Date (mm/dd/yyyy): 10/26/2021



Environment Community Opportunity (ECO) Charter School 2021-2022 Plan to Transition to Virtual Instruction

Introduction and Background

In response to the COVID-19 global pandemic, and as required by the New Jersey Department of Education, the Environment Community Opportunity (ECO) Charter School Board of Trustees unanimously approved and adopted the school's School Re-Entry Plan for the 2021-22 school year. This plan, created and supported by a diverse and active stakeholder group, served as the school's guidance document for implementing, monitoring, and preventing the spread of COVID-19 while providing students and families with programmatic options aimed at keep our community safe as well as supporting our community with sound instructional practices and wellness programming. As such, ECO Charter School reopened for full time, in person instruction on September 7, 2021.

This document outlines ECO Charter School's plan to transition to Virtual Learning if deemed necessary.

Student Access to Technology

All ECO Charter School students has at her/his disposal a school-issued technological device (Chromebook) and internet access either via home WiFi or a school provided mobile wireless hotspot with sufficient data for students to access real-time instructional delivery and to complete related assignments. These devices allow students to transition seamlessly into a virtual learning program. ECO Charter School believes that educational technology is best used to activate prior knowledge, to aid with instructional pacing, to lead students to make relevant connections to what is being taught, and to aid with independent and guided practice.

Virtual Learning for Students Impacted by COVID-19

In the event that a staff member, student, group of students, a class, or multiple classes are quarantined as a result of COVID-19 exposure, ECO Charter School will offer virtual or remote instruction to impacted individuals in a manner commensurate with in-person instruction to the extent possible. Students and staff not exposed to COVID-19 will continue in-person instruction.

Students awaiting COVID test results and/or students who are in quarantine for a COVID-related exposure will be provided with a link to live temporary remote learning within 24-48 hours to ensure teachers can properly prepare for students to join their classes remotely. An ECO Admin team will notify the grade level teaching team if a student is eligible for temporary live remote learning and provide a start and anticipated end date. The ECO Admin team member will also send the teacher, student(s) and the parent/guardian(s) an email including their grade level/homeroom nickname and schedule. Students will attend virtual classes from 8:05 am until 3:55 pm. Excluding lunch and recess, students will participate in a minimum of 6 ½ instructional hours per day.

Temporary live remote learning is not available for students who are out sick with COVID-19 symptoms or non-COVID illness, students who are travelling or students who are absent for any other reason. Per the Governor's executive order, NJ public schools are not permitted to provide remote learning for other reasons outside of COVID-related exposure.

School-wide Transition to Virtual Learning

In the event that the State or local health department determines that it is advisable to close or mandates closure 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, ECO Charter School will transition to a full virtual program. The plan to transition



to Virtual Learning is outlined below. This plan would be implemented during a school closure lasting more than three consecutive school days.

As every student at ECO Charter School has access to school-issued technological devices, the school will transition to full-time virtual instruction within 24 hours of receiving notification from the State or local health department.

ECO Charter School will communicate this change with staff and families via phone calls, email, the school website and an announcement on social media.

Students and staff will utilize our blended learning platform to conduct daily classes that follow the regular schedule. Students will log onto the platform, classes will begin promptly at 8:05 am. Students will take breaks during their regularly scheduled recess and lunch periods. The school day will conclude at 3:55 pm. Excluding lunch and recess, students will participate in a minimum of 6 ½ instructional hours per day.

In the event that students need to pick up additional school supplies, ECO Charter School will resume our virtual learning resource pick up schedule on Wednesdays.

Student Meals

As implemented during the 2020-21 school year, ECO Charter School will supply students with meals during virtual learning. Meal packages will be distributed to families weekly on Wednesdays.

Data Reporting of Student Participation

As required by the NJ Department of Education, ECO Charter School will maintain and report by subgroup, accurate data regarding student participation in virtual learning programming. This information will be maintained via the school's SIS system.

Fostering Community during Virtual Learning (SEL)

ECO Charter School understands the importance of a strong community during times of uncertainty: We will maintain our social-emotional learning practices throughout virtual instruction. These supports include:

- (1) **CREW:** At the beginning of each school day, we dedicate 30 minutes to building positive peer connections and positive relationships with teacher-leaders. CREW is where students are introduced to, taught, and led to continually reflect on the **ECO ETHOS**, or the key actions we believe can and will lead students to achieve their highest potential. At ECO, we seek to lead students to **THRIVE ... we Think, we Hone, we Reflect, we Impact, we Value, and we Envision**. Through CREW, we collaborate to ensure our entire community takes ownership of our responsibility and commitment to each other and our community, we engage thoughtfully planned activities to develop and practice the ECO Ethos, and finally, CREW is where and how we cultivate accountability for decision making in our day-to-day interactions.
- (2) **Daily Attendance Monitoring:** During the virtual instruction period, ECO Charter School will contact families of absent students and work with each family to ensure that students attend virtual classes. Teachers will report daily attendance and the Office Manager will call families when a student is absent from class.
- (3) **Incentives & PBIS Program:** Students will receive incentives for attendance and engagement through the ECO Charter School Ribbit Rewards Program.



Procedures for Communicating ECO Charter School Policies with Families

ECO Charter School will share newly implemented policies and procedures with families in their native language. Information shared with families will include the Virtual Learning Policy, program learning expectations, procedures for transitioning to a different learning model, and how families seeking information about programming may successfully access information the family needs.

NJTSS/RTI Supports for Academically At-Risk Students

ECO Charter School understands that converging events - loss of instruction and absence of quality data - present challenges for trying to meet the needs of diverse learners, including identifying and making eligible those students who are in need of special education. Importantly, many students will be returning to school with increased social, emotional and mental health issues associated with the crisis, which will complicate school function in many ways. During virtual programming, we will focus on the mental wellness of students on a school-wide, classroom, and individual basis as intentionally as academic interventions and supports. We acknowledge that there may be a higher prevalence of academic risk in nearly all schools with variability depending on circumstances. Moving forward, we recognize the impact on academic screening, intervention, and referral for CST evaluation and have modified our referral practices.