



Emergency Remote Instruction Plan

Following the COVID-19 pandemic, school districts in New York must have a plan for how children will be educated if a school must close under emergency conditions. These Emergency Remote Instruction Plans (ERI Plans) are included as part of the District-Wide School Safety Plan, which is reviewed annually by district and building-level emergency response teams, adopted annually by the Board of Education, and submitted to the New York State Education Department.

Communication and Engagement

To help inform our Emergency Remote Instruction Plan, Leaders In Our Neighborhood Charter School completes an annual Student Digital Resources data collection report to understand better the level of access students have to the Internet. Annually, the survey is sent to all families via our mass communication system in the fall with follow-up phone calls and a second mass communication release.

This survey aims to ensure that, to the extent possible, students can access the Internet and receive remote instruction, if necessary, under emergency conditions. This survey is conducted on an annual basis. Students and families may update their access information anytime by contacting the student's teacher and or LION's IT department.

Leaders In Our Neighborhood Charter School has also developed a plan for communicating all necessary information should our school need to close. LION will use existing internal and external communications channels to notify staff, students, and families/caregivers about remote learning schedules with as much advance notice as possible. Initial communication will be sent via a mass communication system if it impacts all classrooms. The Division Director will contact families if it is only a singular Division or a small number of classrooms. Following communication by our Chief Executive Officer, communication from teachers will be through the means established by each Division Director. We typically use Dojo, Talking Points, SwiftReach, Google Classroom, email, and phone calls.

Device, Internet, and Platform Access

Leaders In Our Neighborhood Charter School is a 1:1 computing institution. Each of our scholars at LION has a Google Chromebook that will go home with them or be delivered in case of a school closure.

LION will also support students and families accessing the Internet at home to the extent possible. Leaders In Our Neighborhood Charter School will offer Hot-Spots, when available, to families having difficulty obtaining Wi-Fi access at home.

For those students where remote instruction is not appropriate or possible, LION will assess each student's individual needs and make proper accommodations. Other methods that will be considered include phone instruction and delivering hard-copy materials to the student's home when necessary. When a student, due to their documented needs, cannot access instruction through digital technology, teachers will work directly with guardians to determine the best way to deliver instruction. This alternative teaching method may include the delivery of classroom packets, tele-counseling, individual video conferencing, or in-person learning at one of our schools.

To ensure high-quality remote learning experiences, LION has standardized the use of Google Classroom for all grades K-12.

Teaching and Learning

Leaders In Our Neighborhood Charter School has developed an emergency remote instruction plan to support all students. When a remote learning model is necessary, certain groups of students will be prioritized for in-person learning to the greatest extent possible, depending on the nature of the emergency. This includes but is not limited to, special education students, English language learners, and students with technology or connectivity needs.

Acknowledging that the typical content in each grade level or course may need to be adjusted, the content will be prioritized to ensure that students receive instruction for the prioritized learning standards, essential understandings, and skills necessary for future study success.

Instruction will focus on “core” subject areas; however, additional courses will continue to be offered in a remote learning environment. All instruction will continue to be aligned with the New York State Learning Standards.

Virtual learning schedules have been developed by grade level. If an emergency closure requires the LION to move to virtual learning, these schedules will be shared with students and families, and attendance will be taken daily.

Students will engage with teachers and classmates through live instruction, typically through Zoom, and have question-and-answer periods with teachers and group work (i.e., synchronous learning). Supplementing this time will be self-guided projects, readings, and other age-appropriate assignments that can be completed by the students remotely (i.e., asynchronous learning).

Teachers will be trained in best practices for synchronous, blended, and asynchronous instruction. The focus will be on engagement, delivery of content, and assessment.

For brief periods of remote learning a week or less in duration, Leaders In Our Neighborhood Charter School plans to offer a minimum of 120 minutes of synchronous instruction per day (a one-hour session in the morning and another hourlong session each afternoon), with remaining instructional hours being asynchronous.

For remote learning periods that extend beyond one week, LION will offer additional synchronous instructional hours in all core subjects, including physical education, art, and music.

Support Services

Based on the learning model we have developed, students with disabilities and/or an Individualized Education Plan will continue to receive support services following their individualized education plans (IEP) should remote learning become necessary. It is the expectation that all service providers (e.g., teachers, paraprofessionals, and related service providers) will sign on to the remote learning platform to support students as needed. This will include large classroom settings in the remote learning environment and the use of breakout rooms or one-on-one virtual meetings as necessary.