



**NORTHERN REGION  
EDUCATIONAL SERVICES COMMISSION**

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Business Administrator/Board Secretary

TO: NRESC Board of Directors and Partner School Districts

FROM: Diana C. Lobosco, NRESC Chief School Administrator  
Nicholas V. Vancheri, NRESC Director of Education

RE: Restart and Recovery Plan 2020-2021

DATE: August 3, 2020

The NRESC submitted its Restart and Recovery Plan to the Passaic County Superintendent of Schools on July 28, 2020. This plan was put together by our diverse team of stakeholders who met virtually throughout July. In addition, like most school districts in the County, the NRESC utilized the templates provided by Strauss Esmay to organize this plan.

Attached for your review is the completed plan and policy. The following are highlights of the Commission's reopening plan:

- **All students have devices and internet access provided through the Commission and the sending school districts.**
- Temperature checks will take place every morning at all schools/programs.
- Hope Academy
  - o Hybrid model with synchronous and asynchronous (credit recovery tool) instruction.
  - o ¼ of the school will attend in-person each day, Monday-Thursday.
  - o Teachers and students will follow their regular class schedules with the instructor teaching in-person and remote students at the same time.
  - o Friday instruction will be completely virtual for September, allowing for a deep-cleaning of the building, technology professional development and support for all stakeholders, and, as needed, individual counseling/instructional sessions for students (by appointment only and with social distancing in place).
- Pompton Lakes Daycare Center
  - o The daycare center will continue to operate at Lakeside Middle School in Pompton Lakes.
  - o After-care programs will still take place at Riverdale Public School, as well as in Pompton Lakes (Lakeside, Lenox, and Lincoln schools).
  - o Before-care programs will NOT be offered for the foreseeable future.
  - o Extensive conversations were had with the administration in these districts and all procedures (for example, student drop-off and school cleaning practices) will be in unison with those developed by said districts.
- Preakness Academy
  - o Due to the size of the classrooms and enrollment capability, Preakness Academy will follow an in-person, regular instructional model, Monday-Friday.

- Masks, signage, and partitions will be utilized for the safety of all stakeholders.
- Skylands School
  - Since our students are medically-fragile, the Commission, in conjunction with Skylands parents, has decided that almost all instruction will take place virtually.
  - In addition, since all Skylands students have extensive physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech therapy needs, a schedule has been devised to provide students with one (1) in-person session of each therapy, per week, with the remainder of these sessions taking place virtually. Before or after therapy sessions, our teacher will meet with individual students for a brief instructional session to assess progress.
  - All instruction and services will take place virtually on Monday and Friday, with related services being offered Tuesday-Thursday. Simply put, each student will have a designated half-day in the classroom to receive OT, PT, and speech, as well as a brief instructional assessment.

In addition to the Commission’s planning for reopening its schools and programs, extensive conversations took place with the hundreds of staff members who work off-site in your school districts. The Commission will provide these off-site staff members with PPE and has assured these individuals that the districts in which they are assigned will be following the same standards as we are. The Commission thanks its partner school districts for considering the needs and safety of our staff who work in your school districts during this pandemic.

Lastly, as we complete, implement, and share our restart and recovery plans, please keep in mind the many areas in which the Commission can assist your districts with the unknown in September and beyond. The following are options, beyond the related services we continue to offer, that may assist your school districts in dealing with the heightened instructional technology needs and the fear of parents, students, and staff in returning to school:

- Instructional Technology Coaches
  - The Commission has successfully hired its first instructional technology coach and matched this individual with a partner school district. In addition, our new coach has led/will continue to lead weekly workshops via Zoom for Commission and partner-district personnel.
  - If you are interested in potentially partnering with the Commission for a full or part-time instructional technology coach, do not hesitate to reach out to us.
- Preakness Academy
  - With its small class setting and focus on the whole child, Preakness Academy provides a space for your districts to continue to place middle school students who may benefit from a different environment—especially with school anxiety being heightened during this pandemic.
- Substitute Teacher Registry
  - With the potential for increased teacher leaves and absences, please be reminded that the Commission, through its partnership with the Teacher Education Program at William Paterson University, offers partner school districts the opportunity to join our substitute teacher registry. The cost per school district, per year is \$10 per student (not including initial start-up costs).

If you have any questions or would like additional information about the Commission’s services, please reach out to Mr. Nick Vancheri, Director of Education, at [nvancheri@nresc.org](mailto:nvancheri@nresc.org) or at 973-614-8585 (ext. 3811).

CC: Mr. Carlos Rodriguez, Interim Executive County Superintendent of Schools

