

Classical Academy  
School Health-Related Closure Plan



Submitted By: Sandra Giordano, Lead Administrator  
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Classical Academy Charter School  
1255 Main Avenue  
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## **Plan Development:**

On March 5, 2020, the New Jersey Department of Education released a guidance memo outlining the requirements for school districts to implement a public health-related school closure.

As per statute, Classical Academy has composed a school health-related closure plan in compliance with a request made on May 4 for all schools to submit updated plans. This plan is developed in accordance with the following state guidance: “ *The planned service should include equitable access to instruction for all students. Each preparedness plan should also address the provision of appropriate special education and related services for eligible students.* ”

The plan addresses the continuity of critical school services including remote instruction to fulfill the 180 school day requirement, special education services, and nutritional food services. More specifically, this plan encompasses the following twelve components:

- Component 1 - Equitable Access to Instruction Plan
- Component 2 - Addressing Special Education Needs Plan
- Component 3 - Addressing ELL and Bilingual Needs Plan
- Component 4 - Safe Delivery of Meals Plan
- Component 5- Length of Virtual or Remote Instruction
- Component 6 - Attendance Plan
- Component 7 - Facilities Plan
- Component 8 - Summer Programming Plan
- Component 9 - Board Approval
- Component 10 - Posted on Website
- Component 11 - Essential Personnel
- Component 12 - Sharing Plans

## **Component 1: Equitable Access to Instruction Plan**

At present, although Classical Academy currently has an ELL policy and plan in place, there are no ELL eligible students. There are 9 students with disabilities. Eight students are serviced by IEPs and one student is serviced with a 504 plan.

Data regarding the district demographic profile remains as reported in the OCRS. Students being provided with instruction at Classical include a total of 77 students in grade 6, a total of 53 students in grade 7, and a total of 36 students in grade 8. The schoolwide student population is a total of 166 students.

Students with disabilities are continuing to receive educational support services in accordance with their educational service plans. Students entitled to accommodation and support are being provided for in accordance with their established educational plans which is proctored collaboratively with their support teacher and their mainstream teachers. Students with disabilities utilize the same platforms as general education students using Google Meets and Google Classroom.

Special Education teachers utilize the same online schedules as the General Education Teachers with Flexibility in adjusting the instructional activities to meet individual needs of the students in accordance with their educational service plans.

In all areas of educational competencies, differentiated instruction is implemented by classroom teachers and supervised by the Administrative team. As was done on school premises, teachers continue to differentiate instruction by offering choices in process, product, and content for class assignments including assessments. Teachers also incorporate live virtual sessions and provide feedback to students

Classical Academy ensured students had technological access. Chromebooks and internet access was provided for students who needed these resources. This was done in response to avoid a digital divide.

## **Component 2: Addressing Special Education Needs Plan**

The plan provides for remote instruction to implement IEPs in the following capacities:

- Special Education teachers coordinate lessons with General Education teachers to provide accommodations for eligible students.
- Special Education teachers access Google classroom in order to provide support to eligible students and to grade all eligible students' assignments.
- Special Education teachers create guides and study material to continue to support eligible students in all forms of benchmarks and assessments.

Accommodations and modifications are documented in teachers' lesson plans.

To the greatest extent possible, case managers including the school social worker reach out to families via email and telephone to ensure the provision of services. Interventions from I&R where possible, are still being rendered in order to maximize student achievement for at risk students. Currently standardized assessments related to child study team evaluations are on hold until on site return is permitted.

## **Component 3: Addressing ELL and Bilingual Needs Plan**

Not Applicable: While Classical Academy has a plan in action should the need arise, there are no eligible students at present with this area of need. The indicators of this component are not applicable at this time.

## **Component 4: Delivery of Meals**

As per the directive of Maschio's Food Service and the School Business Office, meals are being vended through the Clifton Board of Education as the meal count for the Classical Academy community was below the threshold.

## **Component 5: Length of Virtual or Remote Instructions Day Plan**

Teachers differentiate instructional time by creating online lessons that maintain rigor. They also incorporate a multi-faceted approach to learning via the following:

- Lessons include project based and interdisciplinary learning within grade levels and across subject disciplines.
- Lessons include opportunities for students to utilize digital media to respond to prompts, lessons, and in some cases to complete benchmarks and assessments. Examples include videos and presentations created by individual students.
- Lessons incorporate creative assignments and tasks tied to the curriculum standards and objectives in order to continue to reach academic goals.
- Student Achievement Support Initiative encompasses interim checkpoints throughout the marking period where there is a “make-up” time for remedial students and supplemental enrichment time for proficient and exemplary learners.
- Teachers check in daily and post assignments daily. Posting includes but is not limited to instructions and directives, downloadable and printable activities, open-ended reflections, and online activities.
- Students clock in a regular school session. Each class meets virtually for at least 40 minutes.
- Students are required to submit exit slips, do nows and other activities or assignments in order for participation and attendance to be acknowledged and graded .

## **Component 6: Attendance Plan**

When online instruction began, the Classical Academy Administration informed all students, teachers, and families of the following attendance procedure:

- Teachers will take attendance daily using Google Classroom. Teachers notify the nurse and/or the administrative team when students are consistently absent.

- Student attendance is monitored through the submission of assignments and participation in online class sessions during each school week. Teachers maintain attendance records and submit grades in accordance with the district's attendance policy.
- Students are expected to participate daily in remote instruction unless sick or marked absent.
- To track attendance, students are given daily assignments to complete.
- Students are given a 24 hour window from the time of their scheduled class to submit all work and to receive attendance credit.
- Teachers will reach out to students who are chronically absent. Teachers will also connect with parents/guardians,
- When numerous attempts to connect with an absent student fail, teachers hand the case over to the administration who continues to make contact via email, phone calls, and traditional mail.

### **Component 7: Facilities Plan**

The maintenance supervisor deemed an essential employee, continues to report to the school building daily, In addition to maintaining security measures he engages in essential tasks including

- Bathroom sanitation
- Cleaning of “high” touch surfaces.
- Sweeping and mopping high traffic areas
- Touch up paint and minor repairs throughout the building

### **Component 8: Summer Programming**

Classical has no funding to support summer programming. A collective bargaining agreement does not allow teachers and staff to continue working after the close of the school year.

Graduation - The Administrative team is coordinating a virtual graduation ceremony for the class of 2020.

### **Component 9: Board Approval**

This plan will be presented to the board for approval at the next regularly scheduled board meeting on June 18, 2020

**Component 10: Website Posting**

Classical Academy's public health-related school closure plan will be posted on the school website on May 22, 2020.

**Component 11: Essential Employees**

The identified essential employees include:

Sandrio Giordano - Lead Person

Nick Indar- Assistant Lead Person

Ms. Stella Robinson- School nurse

Mr. Steven Caruso - Maintenance Supervisor

Mr. Ben Arias - School Secretary

Ms. Alina Rodriguez - School secretary

**Component 12: Sharing Plans**

This component is not applicable to Classical.