

Continuity of Education Plan

School District	PA Virtual Charter School
Superintendent	Dr. John Chandler, CEO
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Goal of Plan
<p>The goal of PA Virtual’s continuity of education plan is multifaceted</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue to provide high quality virtual synchronous and asynchronous planned instruction to the fullest extent possible, while being understanding and flexible during this unprecedented health pandemic; 2. Continue to provide FAPE to our special needs and 504 Plan students, under the challenges of the current circumstances; 3. Continue to provide a sense of stability and normalcy to our students, families, and staff during these unprecedented times.

Overview of Plan
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. PA Virtual will continue to provide continuity of education utilizing planned instruction. Classes will continue be taught at usual times, utilizing the normal curriculum and materials, and employing our normal methods, to the fullest extent possible. The rationale for this course of action is our staff and students are already equipped and trained to proceed with planned instruction in this manner and doing so will continue to provide normalcy and stability to students and staff in these stressful times. 2. PA Virtual’s physical location is closed. Essential staff who follow the Governor’s mandates for aggressive social distancing work a limited number of days per week and a limited number of hours per day in the physical location in order to perform “essential services.” 3. All PA Virtual staff are working 100% remotely (except as noted in #2 directly above). Staff are trained, equipped, and experienced in working from home. 4. A plan to continue the delivery of FAPE to our special needs and 504 Plan students has been developed with the guidance of our legal team and is being implemented by our special education staff. All families of students with IEPs and Section 504 Plans will be contacted to review each student’s program of instruction and related services, if any, and the impact because of the Governor’s mandates.

5. Flexibility and understanding will be afforded to those students with IEPs or Section 504 Plans who need modifications and/or reasonable accommodations due to the coronavirus pandemic pursuant to the requirement of making good faith efforts.
6. Understanding and flexibility within reason will be afforded to general education students as they experience challenges related to the coronavirus pandemic.
7. Right-to-Know requests – please see below.

Expectations for Teaching and Learning

PA Virtual’s expectation for teaching and learning during the COVID-19 statewide school closure period is that the elements of planned instruction for grades K-12 that were being adhered to prior to the school closure period will continue to be implemented to the fullest extent possible, while realizing these are not “normal” times and that students and families may need flexibility and modifications.

Rationale: Our rationale is twofold. First, PA Virtual will continue to provide a sense of normalcy and stability to our students and staff by implementing a continuity of education plan that remains as close to what school was like prior to the school closure period. Second, we are a virtual school and can seamlessly provide continuity of education via planned instruction during the statewide school closure period.

Communication Tools and Strategies

As a virtual charter school, PA Virtual will continue with its current communications tools: email, phone calls, video messages, and posting of announcements and materials in Blackboard, and any other mode and method of instruction that may be necessary during this unprecedented health pandemic.

Regarding strategies, the CEO has communicated directly to families via email and will continue with communications, as needed. Teachers, counselors, Family Support Coordinators, Parent Ambassadors, Principals, and others, including Special Education Directors, will continue their normal communications, utilizing the above-referenced tools.

The CEO has communicated directly with all staff during this pandemic and will continue to do so. Additionally, a daily video conference is held by members of the Executive Leadership Team with all supervisors to proactively address any issues that may arise during the school closure period.

Access (Devices, Platforms, Handouts)

All PA Virtual students and teachers continue to be equipped with a state-of-the-art laptop computer, headset, printer/scanner, internet access, and a combination of online and hard copy curriculum materials.

All other PA Virtual staff are also equipped with a state-of-the-art laptop computer with headset, have internet access, and will be provided a printer/scanner as necessary.

Staff General Expectations

One hundred percent of our teachers already work from their home office 100% of the time. Many non-teaching staff also work from home offices 100% of the time. Prior to the Governor's orders, there were 25-30 staff that split their work week between working from the school's physical location and their home office. As a result of working part of their week from home, these staff are also trained and equipped to work from home.

As a result, 100% of PA Virtual's staff are trained and equipped to work from home for as long as the Governor's orders are in effect.

Student Expectations

Modifications will be provided to individual students or classes on as-needed basis due to the coronavirus pandemic. Otherwise, expectations of students will be to attend class and complete assignments as was expected prior to the statewide school closure period. Course grades will be calculated and recorded as they would have been prior to the statewide school closure period, except in those "as-needed" cases where modifications are necessary. Students are encouraged as always to contact their teachers, counselors, and principals.

Attendance / Accountability

Modifications will be provided to individual students or classes on an as-needed good faith basis. Otherwise, student expectations will be to attend class and complete assignments as usual, and attendance will be recorded as usual.

Good Faith Efforts for Access and Equity for All Students

Access and equity are inherent in PA Virtual's model and in our practices and procedures. As noted above, PA Virtual is making "good faith efforts" as required.

Special Education Supports and Accommodations

A comprehensive plan was developed by our special education and general education staff, with guidance from our legal team. This plan is being implemented by our special education staff to address any changes due to the coronavirus pandemic and resulting prohibition on in-person services. In addition, PA Virtual continues to comply with guidance and mandates from federal and state levels as they pertain to charter school law to provide a Free Appropriate Public Education to students with disabilities. Our special education and other designated staff are contacting families with any changes that may need to be made for students with IEPs and with Section 504 Plans in a good faith effort to provide FAPE during this unprecedented health pandemic with mandated restrictions to school operations from the federal and state governments.

EL Supports

The coronavirus pandemic and resulting school closure has not resulted in any changes to PA Virtual's existing, compliant, ELL program.

Gifted Education

Not applicable.

Right-to-Know (“RTK”) Requests

Requestors will be urged to not file any new RTK requests currently, as inspecting records will be difficult for agencies. This will be indicated on PA Virtual’s website.

Because PA Virtual’s physical location is closed per the Governor’s orders, there are no “business days” per Pennsylvania’s RTK law timelines. Thus, PA Virtual will not fulfill any RTK requests until the Governor’s declaration is lifted, unless said request can be filled without staff going to the physical location (Meaning, the requested documents are available in a digital format and can be accessed by staff via our server.). An automatic email reply will be generated from PA Virtual’s RTK email address to indicate such to any requestor.

Building/Grade Level Contacts

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Ms. Shaikha BuAli, Principal

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Resource Links

N/A