

Halifax Area School District

Updated Remote Learning Guidance for Families

2020-2021

Our primary goal is to ensure our students are safe and are provided with an appropriate continuity of learning that focuses on engaging students to the maximum extent possible. We have updated this document to provide guidance for families for remote instruction due to COVID related school closures or weather-related school building closures.

Frequently Asked Questions:

What technology/apps/student learning platform do we need?

Our remote learning platform is built on Canvas. Microsoft Teams is used for synchronous instruction. Additionally, teachers may utilize other applications that are approved by HASD. Instruction will occur with Halifax teachers utilizing district-developed, board-approved curriculum that can be supplemented with content from Accelerate Education.

How are students held accountable for learning and what is the expected time for students to spend learning each day?

1. When schools are open to in-person instruction and some students participate in remote instruction:

- Instruction will be delivered remotely through Canvas on a daily schedule synchronized with our in-person model.
- Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each school day and at the beginning of each class.
- This model allows our students to attend class when they are not in the school building.

2. If a school building is closed due to COVID-19:

- Secondary students will follow their class schedules remotely reporting to each class at the normal class time.
 - Teachers are encouraged to begin their live lesson at the beginning of the period.
 - The length of the live lessons may vary.
 - All assignments, recordings, resources, and links should be available to students in Canvas.

- Elementary students should log in for remote instruction at 8:30 a.m. Specific subjects will have live instruction daily. The duration of the live lessons will vary based on factors such as the developmental level of the children. Some subjects will deliver lessons using recorded content. All assignments, recordings, resources, and links should be available to students in Canvas.

- 3. *If the school buildings are closed due to weather.*
 - Due to our remote learning program, when a school closing is required due to a weather emergency, **the school day will still be held via remote learning for everyone.**
 - Instructional hours for students and contractual hours for staff will be the same as a normal school day.
 - Staff will monitor email and correspondence through Teams as they would during a normal workday.
 - When contacting staff, remember they are entitled to their contractual prep time and/or duty-free time. Please exercise patience.
 - Any absences will be handled in the same way at each building.
 - In extreme circumstances, HASD may cancel both in person and remote instruction.

How is the school communicating with students and parents?

All official District updates and information regarding COVID-19 from Dr. Hatfield and building administrators will be sent via our Swift K12 platform by email, text, or phone. Feel free to contact teachers and administrators. Dr. Hatfield is available at hatfieldd@hasd.us or by phone at (717) 896-3416 x 108.

- Family communication with Elementary Teachers should continue through email/Dojo.

- Family communication with Secondary Teacher should continue through email/Canvas

What are expectations for grading?

We will continue **following the same grading expectations** and procedures whether we are remote or in person. However, our focus is on student progress and learning.

What if my student does not have access to the internet or has technical issues?

- We will continue to work with identified families to help secure internet access.
- If you experience a situation where a student has internet or device issues, please contact [helpdesk](#) or call (717) 896-3416 x 150. Please leave a message and someone will get back to you.
- If directed by the helpdesk to drop off a device for service or replacement, please drop the device off at the District Office, Monday through Friday between 8am-3pm.

How do teachers collect student work?

Our platform for delivering and collecting student work is Canvas.

Recommended guidelines for student learning based on developmental levels and state mandates on the instructional day and the instructional year:

Elementary Specials	<p>Art, Music, PE, Library, etc....</p> <p>Suggested time frames for specials should be considered part of the total continuous learning load for all classes. Consideration should be given for the fraction of the school day/year this class might normally represent. Encouraging daily student physical activity will be critical, while also providing opportunities for meaningful activities in other electives/specials. Students are accustomed to daily, structured movement as well as unstructured movement.</p>
Special Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual Classes and Support Services will continue to the greatest extent possible. • It is important that HASD make a good faith effort at Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) and equitable access. • Provide appropriate learning activities for students.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaboration between General and Special Education teachers regarding lesson planning and lesson execution is important. • Investigate and determine whether newly introduced apps/platforms are accessible to a child based on the child’s unique needs. • Maintain communication with families to the best of staff ability.
Counseling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication with students is encouraged as some may be experiencing additional stressors. • The district will continue to share mental health resources with families (see partial list below) • Please feel free to contact our school counselors.
Discovery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building principals will work in collaboration with staff to develop and deliver Discovery content and to keep remote learners connected to their peers, staff, and support services.
Food Service Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meal service is at no cost to HASD students this year. • Remote students will have access to HASD meal service. • HASD will investigate meal service during school closures due to weather.
Secondary Counseling and Graduation Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication with students is encouraged as some may be experiencing additional stressors. • Continue to share mental health resources with families (see partial list below). • Follow PDE guidance on the collection of evidence for Career and College Readiness (Graduation Projects) for ESSA guidelines.

Family Partnerships and Support During Remote Instruction

How much time can your students' developmental age handle for remote learning? And, how much time and ability can your families handle for remote learning?

- We continue to consider what we are asking families to complete as it may be a family who lacks time and ability to engage in continuous remote learning, or it may be a sibling or neighbor that is responsible for the child's supervision and remote learning.
- Depending on the age and developmental stage of the children, they may require hands-on involvement by parents, caregivers, siblings, or others.
- Please communicate your needs or any barriers you are experiencing.

How can HASD support our students and families during this process?

- Families can contact the school if they have questions about the remote learning process.

TIPS for Remote Instruction:

- Try to keep to a routine and have clear expectations for your children.
- Dedicate a space at home for student learning that is devoted to learning and is free from distractions.
- Ask for us for help with students are struggling.
- Acknowledge this is not an ideal situation for anyone and give yourself permission to be flexible.

Community Resources during the COVID-19 Crisis from the School Counselors' Network

- **Unemployment Benefits**-It is recommended you apply online for fastest results and processing
 - <https://www.uc.pa.gov/Pages/covid19.aspx>
- **SNAP Benefits/Food Stamps**-Online or via phone
 - <https://www.compass.state.pa.us/compass.web/Public/CMPHome>
 - Help Line 1-800-692-7462
- **Central Pennsylvania Food Bank** 717-564-1700

- 3908 Corey Road, Harrisburg, PA 17109
- <http://www.centralpafoodbank.org/>
- **Uplift Community Church of God and Isaiah 61 Ministries**
 - 36 Jacobs Church Road, Halifax, PA 17032
 - 717-827-3523
- **Utility Assistance**-If you are struggling to pay your utility bills, contact your service provider right away. Many utility service providers offer emergency assistance programs at this time.
- **Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)**
 - <https://liheappm.acf.hhs.gov/navigator>
 - 1-866-452-6152
- **Health Care/Medical Assistance** 1-866-550-4355 (may not be available at this time)
 - County Assistance Office's across the state are closed, but the link provides access info to residents.
- https://www.media.pa.gov/pages/DHS_details.aspx?newsid=498
- **2-1-1 United Way-Call: 2-1-1**
 - <https://www.uwp.org/211gethelp/>

PA Coronavirus Health Website

- <https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Coronavirus.aspx>

If you have seen a reduction in pay due to COVID-19 and are struggling to make your rent, mortgage, credit card, or loan payments, contact your lender right away. Explain your situation and ask about hardship programs that may be available. Regulatory agencies have encouraged financial institutions to work with customers impacted by the coronavirus.

Please feel free to contact us as we continue to **Make a Difference in the lives of our students and in our community!**