



Passaic Public Schools Will Continue School Year With Remote Home-Based Instruction

(City of Passaic, NJ, October 26, 2020)- The Passaic Board of Education has reviewed the health and safety conditions in New Jersey and has authorized Passaic Public Schools to continue in **Phase 1** of its *Schools Restart and Recovery Plan*. An approval authorization of the Board of Education was passed at the Passaic Board of Education meeting on October 26, 2020.

All students and staff began the 2020-2021 school year in **Phase 1**, starting September 10, 2020 and going through October 31, 2020. The authorization to extend Phase 1 maintains remote home-based instruction through February 5, 2021.

Board President Christina Schratz stated *“Our Board of Education is focused on the health, safety and welfare of Passaic. The current data, input from the community, and consultation with health officials has helped to inform the plan proposed by the Superintendent of Schools. I would like to thank the administration, our teachers, staff, the school community-at-large for their work, as well as Vice-President Rodriguez and my colleagues on the board. I would also like to highlight the strong partnership our Board of Education has with Mayor Hector Lora, his administration, and our city officials, as we continue in Phase 1 Remote Home-Based Instruction.”*

The Board of Education will monitor the health and safety conditions, statutes, and executive orders during the months of November, December, and January. In January 2021, the Board of Education will decide whether to continue in Phase 1 (Full-Time Remote Home-Based Instruction) or enter Phase 2 (Hybrid Instruction - One Session Day) on February 8, 2021. In Phase 1, Full-Time Remote Home-Based Instruction, the school buildings will continue to be closed while all students and staff work remotely from home.

In a communication to parents and the community, **Superintendent Pablo Muñoz** stated *“The Board of Education decision to continue in Phase 1 is based on COVID-19 tracking data and the input from families, staff, and medical experts. The Board of Education met in two committee meetings on October 15, 2020 to review guidance from our local health officials and Hackensack Meridian Health Systems consultants; and survey results from more than 1,800 staff and families of over 10,000 students.”* The Superintendent went on to add *“I thank the staff, parents, community members, medical experts, and the Passaic Board of Education for their contributions and support.”*

*“I want to thank our Passaic Board of Education for their diligent efforts and concern for the community’s welfare during these challenging times. Stated **Mayor Hector Lora** “Collaboration between the City of Passaic, the Passaic Board of Education, regional and state authorities is paramount, as we continue to confront the challenges we face from COVID-19.”*

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Schools Restart and Recovery Plan Background Information:

Passaic Four (4) Phases

The Passaic Board of Education will determine when each phase starts based upon the health and safety of its students and staff; and in compliance with statutes and executive orders.

Phase 1 – Full-Time Remote Home-Based Instruction

School buildings remain closed while all students and staff work remotely from home.

Phase 2 - Hybrid Instruction (One Session Day)

Hybrid instruction is defined as a combination of in-person school-based and remote home-based instruction. Parents will choose between hybrid instruction or full-time remote home-based instruction. Students will be assigned to one of four groups. Hybrid Instruction Groups A, B, and C will each attend school on a rotating basis, on Monday, Wednesday, or Friday, with the remaining school days occurring remotely. Staff will work a full day, while students attend in-person instruction for one session. Students receive grab and go lunch. Staff will check in with remote students and complete other professional responsibilities. Group D will be full-time remote home-based instruction.

Phase 3 - Hybrid Instruction (Full Day)

This phase is identical to Phase 2 above, with the exception that hybrid instruction students will attend school for a full day.

Phase 4 - Full-Time In-person School-Based Instruction

School buildings open for all students and staff to resume regular schedule in-person school-based instruction.

Passaic Public Schools continues to ensure that all students and families are informed of the services being provided to the community. Families will receive a letter from the Superintendent announcing the continuation of Phase 1. Additionally, families can go to the Passaic school district website at www.passaicschools.org where they will continue to find details on the school calendar, information on accessing technology, how to access the student portal, links for registering new students, along with other important services.

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