



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

(City of Passaic, NJ, January 25, 2021) - 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 January 25, 2021. The recent authorization to extend Phase 1 maintains remote home-based instruction through April 23, 2021.

Board President Christina Schratz stated *“As the vaccinations continue throughout our community, the Board of Education remains focused on the health, safety and welfare of our school children, teachers and staff. Our decision to continue full-time remote learning is based on science and expert information from health officials, staff, and surveys from over 10,000 student families. We appreciate the efforts of the school administration, our teachers, staff and the school community-at-large during these challenging times and continue working together with Mayor Lora and city officials.”*

The Board of Education will continue to monitor the health and safety conditions, statutes, and executive orders during the upcoming months of February and March. In March 2021, the Board of Education will decide again based on updated information on whether to continue in Phase 1 (Full-Time Remote Home-Based Instruction) or enter Phase 2 (Hybrid Instruction - One Session Day) on April 26, 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** informed parents, teachers and staff that *“The Board of Education met in two committee meetings on January 6, 2021 to review guidance from local health officials and Hackensack Meridian Health Systems consultants; and updated survey results from more than 1,700 staff and families of over 10,000 students.”* Superintendent Muñoz thanked staff, parents, community members, medical experts and the Passaic Board of Education for their continuing contributions and support.

*“As your mayor, the return to in school learning will be predicated on the safety and well-being of students, teachers, all employees and our community, stated **Mayor Hector C. Lora** “Working together with Passaic Board of Education, we continue to rely on the most up-to-date information from regional and state health authorities as our community continues to face the challenges presented by 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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