



Emergency School Health-Related Closure Plan: Student Information Sheet

Summary Statement

In response to the closure of schools due to COVID-19, Ocean State Academy has established the following plan to ensure you, our esteemed student, can learn as effectively in your home environment as you learn in our building.

As you know, your instruction is individualized. Your lessons are based on your classroom performance as well as your Renaissance STAR testing results. We want to make sure there is no disruption in your personal academic and social-emotional learning goals while you are not at school.

Homebound instruction will be provided to you utilizing online technology that you are already familiar with (Edgenuity, IXL, Renaissance, Prodigy, etc.); work packets mailed home; phone calls to check in and clarify understanding of lessons; Google Classroom; Google Meets; and email communications. You will be expected to complete all coursework assigned through you means to earn your grades. We urge you to communicate your home learning needs to your individual teacher and/or social worker, as we want to be sure you can access your learning as appropriate. If you receive additional service like speech or occupational therapy, you will be contacted to schedule your sessions as appropriate.

Home Instruction: Scope & Intent

Below you can read the law that states you are entitled to continue your education regardless of the place in which you are receiving your education. What this means for you is that your teacher is going to do everything possible to help make sure that your lessons reach you and are completed successfully, even though you're not in the school. In this way, you will still be able to earn your credits as if you were still in the building working toward them. To accomplish this, we need you to tell us if the way we are reaching you isn't working so we can try a different approach. It is essential that you know your rights as a student; and as your education team, we will continue to inform you of them. If you have questions, please reach out to an adult you are comfortable with, and we can explain your rights so you understand them. We know you view your work as something you "have to do," but schooling is actually something you "get to do"—you are entitled to learn and you deserve to learn. We will continue to work with you on the "have to" part for passing classes so that you can ultimately recognize the "get to" learning opportunities you have.

300.115(C) Continuum of special education placements and services: homebound and hospital instructional programs. (6.5.2(E))

(a) General. In determining the educational services for a child with a disability in homebound and hospital instruction programs, the IEP Team shall determine what constitutes an appropriate program, including the consideration of whether the child is in need of an extended school year program, as required by § 300.106.

(b) Homebound Instructional Programs

(1) The home atmosphere shall be conducive to learning. Special conditions recommended by the physician shall be observed.

(2) The minimum number of hours of instruction shall be five (5) hours per school week at the elementary level of education and six (6) hours at the secondary level of education unless fewer hours are recommended by the physician. Depending on the physical condition of the child, a number of instructional hours greater than the minimum number of hours required per week is permissible.

Accordingly, Ocean State Academy will provide home instruction for eligible students using our existing staff, who meet the requirements as Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) certified teachers.

As per state guidelines, a classified student may have his or her Individualized Education Program (IEP) implemented through one-to-one instruction at home or in another setting when no other program option is appropriate/available, given that instruction is provided for no fewer than 5 (elementary) or 6 (secondary) hours per week. As such, Ocean State Academy will ensure that each eligible student receives at least 5–6 hours (as appropriate) of remote instruction, although we feel confident that maintaining our regular academic schedule, including online teacher-directed instruction and coursework, will extend far beyond this minimum.

Research has shown that homebound services create a unique and positive experience for students and teachers alike, affording teachers an opportunity to observe the home environment and family dynamics more closely than they can from within the brick-and-mortar school setting. Teachers can build stronger ties with families, along with closer bonds with their students, as a result of this change of venue that amplifies one-on-one interaction. For these reasons and more, we feel our students will not lose any progress, momentum, or connection during home instruction due to temporary health-related school closures.

Primary Tools & Methodologies Used

Students, we value your knowledge of technology and ask that you bear with us as we learn to navigate it as well as you do with your peers. As your teachers, we are committed to learning and perfecting use of the following resources and will continue to research new ones to improve your learning experience. The current resources we are using include:

- Streaming video platforms
- Live chats (on an individual, group, or full-class basis)
- Web conferencing tools
- Telephone/email correspondence
- Virtual office hours
- Edgenuity or Plathblazer, IXL, and Renaissance web platforms and software

Videoconferencing Platform for the Provision of Special Education Instruction & Related Services

Students, your teachers have created Google Classrooms, they will be available via Zoom and/or Google Meets, and they can talk to you on the phone to ensure you continue to meet your academic and social-emotional goals. We are using a company called Prentgraf to ensure that your rights and privacy are protected, under HIPAA, FERPA, and COPPA mandates. Your teachers will use video rooms in which you can connect, live, in real time, face-to-face. This connection can be made via any Internet-connected device with audiovisual functionality—whether that’s desktop, laptop, tablet, or smartphone—which means everyone should be able to use videoconferencing. Each Zoom session can accommodate up to 100 participants, so you may even be able to have morning meetings or circles with your peers while you’re being schooled at home.

Your social workers are also working hard to make sure you have their support during this time. They will continue to work with you on your social-emotional learning, which can also be done through videoconferencing or phone calls. Additionally, videoconferencing allows online delivery of the following therapeutic services in one-to-one or small-group settings:

- Speech therapy
- Occupational therapy
- Counseling
- Social work services

In addition and as allowed per safety regulations in Rhode Island, we will offer drop-in services at the school when we are able.

Software Used

Edgenuity (grades 6–12):

Edgenuity provides you access to your current grade-level curriculum. Your teacher has selected courses based on requirements for graduation. That said, there are over 300 courses to choose from. If there is something you want to learn about, tell your teacher so they can add it to the courses available to you. Communicate with your teacher if a course is too easy (there are honors courses available) or too challenging (teachers can modify the content and bypass activities that are too difficult). Some of you have found great success in passing quizzes by taking notes and using them for your assessment. This is a great skill that will help you if you choose to go to college or into a field that requires learning information auditorily (someone telling you how to do something, also known as “lecture”). Some of you have given up on the program because you have failed the quizzes and no matter how many times you watch the videos, the quizzes don’t match your learning style. Your teachers now know how to bypass the quiz or activity that is too challenging, and you can earn your grade by communicating to your teacher what you learned. This can be done by calling your teacher, emailing a summary, joining a Google chat, or in another way that you develop with your teacher.

Pathblazer (grades K–6):

Make sure you log in every day and work in each area so you can continue to build your skills. You should be able to work on your own in this program. Please let an adult know if it is too easy or too hard so your teacher can adapt it for you. If you do not try your best, or if an adult helps you to answer the questions, the program will not work for you.

Renaissance (all students):

All of you are familiar with Renaissance STAR testing. Please take this very seriously so we can identify the skills you need us to teach you. View this as a “what I know” and a “what I need to learn” tool. If an adult helps you on the tests, then the work we give you in response will be too hard, because you did not do it on your own; if you just guess, the work we give you in response won’t be what you need and could be too easy. If something is too hard, you will become frustrated; if it is too easy, you will become bored. You deserve to learn material that challenges you without feeling like you are getting everything wrong. Help us by honestly answering the questions by yourself. Only in this way can we send you work that matches your current abilities and allows you to continue to grow.

IXL (All Students):

IXL offers skills from preschool through high school. All of you know that if you miss a lesson or don’t understand part of a lesson, it makes other lessons harder. This is called a “gap” in your learning. We want to fill in all of the gaps in your learning using this tool. If you missed a lesson in 1st grade, please feel comfortable going to the 1st grade section to learn that skill. If you answer the question wrong, this tool will show you how to do it, then it will give you more questions to practice. Please use this time to fill in as many gaps as you can. We also know how many questions you answer each day. Be in competition with yourself to “beat your score” (total number of questions) each day.

Education.com:

Some of you already participate in the engaging games, videos, songs, and exercises on this website. Practicing these foundational math and language arts skills will help you succeed in your academics.

Additional Content Delivery Mediums & Assessment Tools

In addition to utilizing the live, real-time access pathways outlined above, Ocean State Academy will take advantage of other online products and platforms that facilitate teacher-to-student remote interaction and expedite online learning:

- Google Classroom
- Nearpod
- NewsELA
- Khan Academy

Apex Learning Virtual School

As an additional vehicle for instruction and ongoing assessment for our high school students in particular, Apex—an online private high school that is fully accredited and that offers full- and part-time options to students who need high-quality alternative education—may be instituted. Apex would serve as a supplement to, not a substitute for, OSA-staff-led instruction. Here is just a sampling of Apex advantages:

- Apex boasts an impressive successful pass rate of 90%, with participating students doing better than the national average in subsequent related courses.
- Live academic support is available, in real time, from on-call teachers and tutors via text and video chats.

- The acclaimed courses center on active, personalized learning in which students proceed at their own pace, assisted by such built-in educational tools as text to speech, simulations, and study guides.
- Students are supported by a full team of adults consisting of teachers, counselors, coaches, and tutors.
- ALVS has been fully accredited by the NWAC, an accreditation division of AdvancED, since 1999.

Contact Information

For further information about Ocean State Academy's Emergency Health-Related School Closure Plan protocols and measures, please contact:

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