

# **BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY**

## **INFORMATIONAL REPORT**

### **Prolonged State of Emergency Virtual Education Plan**

**May 20, 2024**

#### **Background Information:**

On April 11, 2024, the Maryland State Department of Education provided information regarding the submission of the Prolonged State of Emergency Virtual Education Plans required by each local education agency as a result of senate Bill (SB) 610, Chapter 804. The state noted that on or before June 1, 2024, a county school board shall adopt a virtual education plan for use during a prolonged state of emergency. As defined by the Annotated Code of Maryland, Education Article 7-14A-01 through 7-14A-09, a “prolonged state of emergency means a state of emergency declared by the Governor under Title 14 of the Public Safety Article that prevents regular, in-person attendance at a public school for at least 14 consecutive school days.”

As directed by the Maryland State Board of Education, if there is a prolonged state of emergency that prevents regular, in-person attendance for at least 14 consecutive school days, a county board shall implement its virtual education plan and transition the school or district to virtual education.

#### **Discussion:**

Each plan must include the following elements:

- Staffing and personnel assignment
- Student instruction
- Student assessment and learning support
- Social and emotional support
- Community communication
- Technology
- Nutritional and health services
- Return to in-person instruction

Various HCPS offices have collaborated to address each of these areas and incorporate lessons learned during the virtual instruction of the 2020-2021 school year into this new, updated plan. An overview of the plan was then shared across various internal and external stakeholder groups for additional insights and feedback. The plan provides guidance while remaining flexible enough to respond to the unforeseen circumstances that may arise during a state of emergency. A new plan must be approved and submitted to the state every two years beginning June 2024.

#### **Superintendent’s Recommendation:**

The Superintendent of Schools recommends that the Board of Education approve the Prolonged State of Emergency Virtual Education Plan.