

Nutley Public Schools

Emergency Virtual Remote

Instructional Plan



2026-2027

Mr. Kent Bania
Superintendent of Schools

The Nutley Public School District, in accordance with the New Jersey Department of Education's Guidance for Chapter 27 Emergency Virtual or Remote Instruction Programs for the 2026-2027 School Year, is submitting the following Emergency Virtual or Remote Instruction Plan for implementation in the event of an emergency school closure requiring virtual or remote instruction.

In April 2020, Governor Phil Murphy signed A-3904 into law (P.L. 2020, c.27, or "Chapter 27"), which requires each school district, charter school, renaissance school project, and Approved Private School for Students with Disabilities (APSSD), collectively referred to as Local Educational Agencies (LEAs), to annually submit a proposed program for emergency virtual or remote instruction to the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE).

Chapter 27 provides for the continuity of instruction during a public health-related district closure by permitting LEAs to utilize virtual or remote instruction to satisfy the 180-day school year requirement pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-9. To ensure transparency and the continued delivery of high-quality, standards-based instruction, each LEA is required to annually develop, approve, and submit a plan for emergency virtual or remote instruction to the Commissioner of Education.

The Chief School Administrator is responsible for submitting the District's 2026-2027 Emergency Virtual or Remote Instruction Plan, approved by the Nutley Board of Education, along with the required NJDOE checklist, to the Essex County Office of Education for review and approval.

This plan will be implemented during a district closure lasting more than three consecutive school days due to a declared state of emergency, a declared public health emergency, or a directive issued by the appropriate health agency or public health officer requiring a public health-related school closure. A day of virtual or remote instruction, when implemented under a plan approved by the Commissioner of Education, shall be considered the equivalent of a full day of school attendance for purposes of meeting the 180-day school year requirement, State and local graduation requirements, awarding course credit, and any other requirements established by the Commissioner of Education.

The District's plan incorporates all statutory and regulatory requirements outlined in the NJDOE Guidance for Chapter 27 Emergency Virtual or Remote Instruction Programs for the 2026-2027 School Year. Following approval by the Nutley Board of Education and the Essex County Office of Education, the approved plan will be posted on the Nutley Public School District website as required by the NJDOE.

Preparation

Virtual learning days may be called without warning. It is important for all teachers and related services to discuss contingency plans with students and/or parents at the beginning of the school year. Teachers should establish a google meet meeting place, remind students to the start of the day, and prepare Google Classroom and familiarity of the platform with students if the need arises to go virtual.

Chromebooks/ Device Access/ Connectivity

- All Nutley Public School students will have equitable access to remote learning technologies as well as in-person instructional resources.
- All students in the Nutley Public School District grades 6-12, have been issued a school-purchased Chromebook. In the event of a school closure that is anticipated to last over 3 days, the district will survey families with students in grades PK-5, and provide devices for students that are in need. The district has devices available in the elementary schools for distribution.
- All faculty & staff have access to technology resources including but not limited to, a district issued Chromebook/Laptop, Google Classroom, applications, resources and electronic professional development resources.
- Students and families in need of additional internet connectivity support will be provided a district issued "Hot Spot."
- In situations when the district is unable to resolve Chromebook issues via the phone and email, the district will provide a replacement Chromebook for the student.

Virtual/ Remote Learning Schedule (class/building/district closure)

This section highlights the learning plan for class(es), building(s), or the district must sustain an emergency closing for long-term (over three days.) or if the NJDOE (or county field office) provides a daily option in case of emergency.

All students will be required to attend and participate, on a daily basis, in all of their classes via Google Classroom utilizing their school provided electronic device.

The daily bell schedule will be:

- Elementary Schools- <https://www.nutleyschools.org/sites/default/files/Bells/k6schedule.pdf>
- JHWMS - <https://www.nutleyschools.org/sites/default/files/Bell%20Schedule%202020-2021.pdf>
- NHS- https://www.nutleyschools.org/sites/default/files/IMG_4334.jpg
- Teachers will hold "live" interactions, through Google Classroom, with students based on the daily bell schedule.
- Teachers will use Google Classroom for all school related materials and assignments.
- Students will follow their full day, in-person class schedule, each day of the Emergency Closing.
- Attendance will be recorded for each class using the realtime SIS.

- Assessments will be given, included common assessments, modified as needed for virtual instruction during this time
- Teachers will be available for open office hours (extra help), daily.
- Adjustments may be made to this schedule based on screen time and/or feedback from stakeholders. Possible adjustments may include the shift to a half day bell schedule, and/or the incorporation of asynchronous learning activities.

Addressing Special Education Needs

During virtual instruction, student IEPs will be maintained with fidelity to the limitation of the technology, and special services will be consulted for modifications and accommodations. Therapies and other related services meetings will be held virtual to the greatest extent possible. Students' IEP development will be tracked by the child study and meetings will continue virtually. Case managers will use phone and meeting technology to continue the implementation of services.

Addressing English Language Learners (MLL) Plan Needs

The district will continue to communicate with families of MLL students through on-going virtual parent nights, also providing virtual translation services and intervention materials. The district will continue to implement sheltered instruction coaching groups virtually, and provide professional development supporting the general education teacher. The district's professional development plan will continue to be implemented with virtual initiative to support inclusive environments, and support the implementation of American Sign Language with district professional development through the MSUner network (which is virtual for the year).

Attendance Plan

Students will follow the attendance policy. Attendance will be taken in Realtime, and administration will coordinate notification to parents regarding lack of attendance, similar to our current attendance reporting strategies (robocall, attendance secretary calls, progressive discipline). Students will be required to attend virtually the synchronous portion of their school day, and show artifacts from the asynchronous (if applicable) to show attendance.

During Class:

It should be noted that the student's camera should remain off and microphone should be muted, the chat should be disabled, and there is not a direct instruction expectation; rather, the student is provided access as if they were auditing the class. Google Meet can also be modified to be made private, so the link can be shared only between the student and class. Teachers should use meet.google.com, start an

instant meeting and invite only the quarantined student. (The private Google Meet should not be projected to the other students). If you feel that you need to modify these expectations (which may be necessary based on role/building), please discuss with your building principal.

Where passive listening is not conducive to the learning of the student or the class environment (ie. assessment, group project), the teacher (in consultation with the principal) may select other options for daily check-ins. They can include but are not limited to:

- 1:1 conferences - Utilize Google Meet or phone conversations on a prep period
- Google Messaging/Google hangout/District email to communicate.

Meals

If the district were to pivot to emergency virtual or remote learning, the district would provide a central location for food distribution two times a week. During these pick-ups, families will receive multiple meals for multiple days.. Pomptonian food service will provide a schedule, as well as a menu of food.

Facilities Maintenance

During an extended period of closure, facilities will be maintained by administration, critical maintenance and custodial personnel, which may be required to report to the buildings, depending on the nature of the emergency closure. A list of essential employees will be forwarded to the Essex County Office

Other Learning Considerations

During a prolonged period of emergency virtual or remote instruction, the Nutley Public School District will continue to provide opportunities and supports to address the academic, social-emotional, and enrichment needs of students.

Accelerated learning opportunities, including dual enrollment and Advanced Placement courses, will continue virtually with the expectation that students complete required coursework. Credit recovery opportunities will remain available to high school students through online platforms, teacher support, and progress monitoring by counselors and administrators to ensure students remain on track for graduation.

The District will continue to support the social-emotional health and well-being of students and staff through virtual implementation of the CKCC and RULER curricula, mental health choice days as needed, and continued access to counseling services. School counselors, psychologists, and social workers will remain available virtually to provide support, connect with students and families, and address social-emotional needs during periods of remote learning.

Title I Extended Learning Programs will continue to support eligible students through virtual tutoring, academic intervention sessions, and small-group instruction outside of the regular school day. Program staff will collaborate with classroom teachers to address individual student needs and align services with grade-level standards.

The District will continue extended learning opportunities, including youth development activities, service learning, nutrition and health education, drug and violence prevention programs, counseling, arts, music, physical fitness and wellness education, technology education, financial literacy, Option II programming, and other enrichment opportunities through virtual platforms when possible.

While Nutley Public Schools does not currently operate a 21st Century Community Learning Center (21st CCLC) Program, the District remains open to collaboration and grant opportunities that support expanded learning and enrichment activities aligned with 21st CCLC goals. If such a program becomes active, provisions will be included to support virtual continuation during emergency remote instruction.

Transportation services will continue based on student needs and safety considerations. Out-of-district placement transportation will continue to the greatest extent possible.

Clubs, athletics, music, and other extracurricular activities will continue virtually to the greatest extent possible. The District will continue partnerships with community organizations, including the Nutley Family Services Bureau, Division of Public Safety, and Nutley Parks and Recreation, to provide additional support and resources to students and families.

The District's extended day childcare program will not operate during periods of emergency virtual instruction.