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Norfolk Superintendent Recommends Closing School for 2026 Virginia Special Election

Norfolk, VA – Norfolk Public Schools Superintendent, Dr. Jeff Rose, will recommend to the School Board to implement a schedule adjustment on Tuesday, April 21, 2026, in alignment with the upcoming 2026 Virginia Special Election. After careful consideration, it will be recommended that schools will be closed for students (not a virtual day) on April 21, and the day will serve as a virtual workday for all NPS staff.

This decision is grounded first and foremost in our responsibility to ensure the safety and well-being of our students, staff, and community. As our schools serve as polling locations, this brings increased public access to our buildings throughout the day. We must consider not only physical safety, but also the emotional environment for students and staff.

In today's broader national climate and given the unique role our region plays, we believe this is a thoughtful and proactive step to minimize potential disruptions while maintaining a stable and supportive school environment. Additionally, April 21, will provide staff with a dedicated virtual workday to support planning, preparation, and student support at a critical point in the academic calendar.

"I do not take decisions like this lightly," said Dr. Jeff Rose, Superintendent of Norfolk Public Schools. "This determination reflects careful consideration and input from both internal and external perspectives, and our continued commitment to balancing safety, stability, and strong instruction for our students and staff."

Norfolk Public Schools will continue to communicate proactively with families and staff.