

**Southampton Township School District
Emergency Virtual or Remote Instruction Program Plan
2026-2027**

***Southampton Township School District
Southampton, NJ 08088***

Burlington County

Megan Geibel, Chief School Administrator

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Emergency Virtual or Remote Instruction Program

In April 2020, Governor Murphy issued an executive order that became P.L.2020, c.27. The law provides for continuity of instruction in the event of a public-health related district closure so that school districts can utilize virtual or remote instruction to satisfy the 180-day requirement.

In the event the Southampton Township School District must close for more than three consecutive school days due to a declared state of emergency, declared public health emergency, or a directive by the appropriate health agency or officer to institute a public health-related closure, the district may use virtual or remote instruction to satisfy the 180 day requirement pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-9.

The school nurses and administrators will communicate with the Burlington County Health Department regarding medical issues and concerns. Nurses and administrators will review all communications from the Burlington County Department of Health Department.

The district will consult with the Burlington County Office of Education, if the need arises, for an extended closure of the district.

Scheduling of Students

The Southampton Township School District is prepared to implement the following models for instruction as needed and determined by the district. Currently, the Full In-Person Instruction model is being utilized. Programs will be utilized that meet the state attendance requirements.

Full In-Person Instruction

- 5 days per week, in-person instruction following the full day (6.5 hours) schedule.
- Early Dismissal Days are included throughout the school year (4.5 hours).
- The Special Education Pre-K is a half day program (AM/PM).

Fully Remote Instruction

- Students will follow their full day (6.5 hour) in-person instructional model schedule.
- Pre-K students will follow the half day (AM/PM) schedule.

- Staff will follow the full day in-person instructional model schedule and provide live instruction.
- Modifications can be made to the schedule by the school principal for accommodations, if needed.
- Technology will be provided to students/families and staff, as needed and requested.
- Wifi access will be provided to families in need via hotspot connections.
- Google Suite will be utilized by the district to provide for remote instruction.
- Staff would maintain attendance and grading through our SIS, Realtime.
- Parents can access the Parent Portal to review student performance.
- Student attendance and engagement will be monitored by teachers and referrals for intervention will be made to the school counselor, special education case manager and/or administration when attendance and engagement are showing signs of negatively affecting academic success.
- If a student is not participating in online instruction and/or submitting assignments, contact will be made with the family by the teacher, counselor, case manager and/or administration.
- Clubs and Activities provide many opportunities for students and staff to become involved with community initiatives. Clubs/Activities that can remain operational in a virtual format will continue.
- Gifted and Talented programs will continue for eligible students.

Special Education Considerations

- Modifications and accommodations required by the student IEPs will be provided through this instructional model to the greatest extent possible.
- Continuation of related services will be provided to the greatest extent possible.
- Case managers will follow up with families to ensure services are implemented according to IEPs.
- If mandated remote school is in place, IEP meetings, evaluations, reevaluations will be conducted virtually.
- All mandated special education timelines will be adhered to.

English Language Learners

- The district's English Language Learner (ELL) program will continue during periods of virtual or remote instruction in accordance with all state and federal requirements, including Title III and New Jersey bilingual/ESL program requirements.

- ELL students will continue to receive English language development instruction and appropriate language supports based on their identified proficiency levels.
- District communications, notices, and instructional information will be provided in families' home languages whenever practicable. Translation and interpretation services will be available to ensure meaningful communication with families.
- ELL staff will collaborate with classroom teachers to provide differentiated instruction, sheltered instructional strategies, and appropriate accommodations to ensure multilingual learners have equitable access to grade-level curriculum and learning opportunities.
- Students will have access to district-issued devices, internet connectivity support, and digital learning platforms necessary to participate fully in remote instruction.
- Universal Design for Learning (UDL) principles, differentiated instruction, visual supports, scaffolds, and language acquisition strategies will be utilized to support multilingual learners during virtual instruction.
- Professional development opportunities will be provided for teachers, administrators, counselors, and support staff on culturally responsive teaching practices, social-emotional learning, trauma-informed practices, and strategies to support multilingual learners, including students who may have experienced displacement, migration, or trauma.
- ELL staff, counselors, and administrators will monitor the academic progress, attendance, engagement, and social-emotional well-being of multilingual learners and provide interventions as needed through the district's MTSS process.

Academic, Social and Behavioral Supports

Social Emotional Learning (SEL) - School Culture & Climate

- Identify proactive measures to support transitions and prevent SEL regressions through needs assessments, staff input, and parent feedback, as needed.
- Utilize Counselors/CST for individual and group counseling for students and staff as needed.
- Establish routines and maintain clear communication.
- Continue school spirit activities that encourage student participation and team building.
- Prioritize the health and emotional well-being of staff and students.
- Establish a "check in" for students when remote learning is mandated.
- Promote student/family engagement through activities.
- Provide professional development opportunities for staff self care.
- Understand and utilize trauma-informed practices.
- Provide staff with professional development and resources in the area of Trauma-informed practices.

- Integrate SEL into classroom lessons with support of counselors/CST.
- Utilize technology to promote the importance of SEL to families and staff.
- Provide SEL professional development to staff.
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Wrap-Around Support

- Meetings to discuss vulnerable students or new student concerns.
- SEL lessons and growth opportunities are embedded into the school culture.
- Provide mental health resources/referrals for parents and staff.
- Provide individual and group counseling for students as needed.

Multi-Tiered Systems of Support

- MTSS is a systematic approach to prevention, intervention, and enrichment in grades Pre-K through eighth for academics and behavior that offers educators and families a mechanism to identify individual students who need extra support.
- MTSS will be taking place in all schools daily.
- The Intervention and Referral Services Team to help identify students who are in need of academic, behavioral or emotional needs.
- Recommend strategies and supports to classroom teachers and families through the Intervention and Referral Process.
- Continue the 3-tiered level of supports.
- Expand the array of academic and social emotional supports and interventions available within the school and the community.
- Use data trackers to assist in monitoring the success of implemented strategies and modify as needed.

Food Services

- All meals will be prepared in the school kitchens meeting health and safety guidelines.
- Eligible students for free/reduced lunch will have the option to pick up meals from the district.
- A schedule of meal pick up days/times will be provided to the eligible families.

Digital Divide/Technology

Addressing the Digital Divide

Families with students attending Southampton Township Schools are surveyed to ascertain if every school-age child in their household has access to their own device

and if their home internet access is sufficient to allow each school-aged child to participate in online classes with video simultaneously.

Survey questions are as follows:

- Number of students residing in your household who will attend public, private, or charter schools for the upcoming school year.
- Does every school-age child in your home have access to their own computer, Chromebook, tablet, desktop, or laptop so they can participate in remote learning and/or complete homework all at the same time? (Do not consider any school-provided computers.)
- Do you have Internet access in your home that is sufficient to allow each school-aged child to participate in online classes with video simultaneously? (Do not consider any school-provided Internet access.)

Provisions of Technology

- Southampton Township School District will provide devices to students who lack sufficient devices and/or hotspot to facilitate virtual or remote instruction, when needed.
- Staff will routinely communicate with parents to monitor any changes in technology needs for students. Any change of technology needs for students are communicated to the building guidance counselor. Once approved, the district Technology Coordinator is provided parent(s) contact information to start the provision process of district issued equipment.
- Technology Coordinator will contact parent(s) to provide a Southampton Device Agreement to sign and schedule a time for a parent(s) to pick up district issued equipment.
- The Technology Coordinator and/or Computer Technician will distribute device(s) by appointment on a designated day/time.
- Replacement of equipment is scheduled with parents when a district issued device needs service.
- Families will be notified of the date and time for a parent to return district issued equipment. District issued equipment must be returned by a parent.

Attendance and Student Participation

- Student attendance during virtual or remote instruction will be recorded daily in accordance with district attendance policies and NJDOE requirements.

- A student will be considered present when participating in live virtual instruction, engaging in assigned learning activities, submitting assignments, or otherwise demonstrating meaningful participation in the instructional program.
- Teachers will monitor attendance, participation, and assignment completion through the district's student information system and instructional platforms.
- Attendance records will be used in determining promotion, retention, eligibility for academic interventions, and other decisions related to student performance in accordance with district policies.
- Student disciplinary procedures, grading practices, and promotion/retention decisions will continue to follow district policies and applicable state regulations.
- Parents/guardians will have access to attendance and academic information through the Realtime Parent Portal.
- When a student is not participating in online instruction and/or submitting assignments, the teacher will contact the family to identify barriers and provide support.
- If concerns persist, communication and follow-up will occur through the school counselor, case manager (if applicable), and/or administration to develop intervention strategies and re-engage the student.
- Attendance and engagement concerns may be addressed through the district's MTSS and Intervention and Referral Services (I&RS) processes to provide appropriate academic, behavioral, or social-emotional supports.

Facilities

In the event of a mandated closure of the school buildings for an extended period of time, the buildings will be maintained by:

- Custodial and maintenance staff will be required to report to the district.
- Custodial and maintenance staff will continue to maintain buildings and grounds during the time of closure.
- No outside groups will be allowed to use facilities during mandated closure.
- Southampton Township Schools serves as the Community Emergency Shelter and it may be necessary to have the shelter operational.
- Business Office personnel may be required to report to the buildings to handle necessary district business.
- Technology and Administrative personnel may be needed to report in the district to provide and see to duties necessary to the operation of the district.
- Additional staff may need to report in district as necessary and determined by the superintendent.
- As the Southampton School District provides essential services to our community, all of the district's employees are viewed as essential.

- The necessity for certain employees to report in district will be determined on an as needed basis.

Other Considerations

- 21st Century Community Learning Center Programs are embedded in the district curriculum and will continue during remote learning.
- Title I services and programming that exist during in person instruction will continue in the remote setting.
- Southampton is a Pre-K to 8 district, there are opportunities for students to receive additional and remedial instruction to reinforce learning.
- School enrichment programs that function during in-person learning will continue in the virtual instruction setting.
- Opportunities for “office hours” with teachers and support staff will be provided to students virtually to promote academic success for all students.
- Child care is provided through the local Champions Programs. Information on the programs will be provided to families by the school district.
- The Southampton Township School District works closely with the local Office of Emergency Management to review emergency plans and operations.
- The Southampton Township School District provides transportation for students on a daily basis through a contract with Garden State Transportation.
- Transportation would not be needed during a mandated school closure. If there was a special circumstance that transportation was needed, the district would consult with the contractor.
- The district will identify essential employees and provide a list of essential personnel to the Burlington County Office of Education at the time of transition to virtual or remote instruction, as required by NJDOE guidance.