



Oklahoma City Public Schools Virtual Instructional Plan

School Year: 2026–2027

Purpose and Overview

Oklahoma City Public Schools (OKCPS) has developed this plan to utilize up to two (2) instructional days or twelve (12) instructional hours of virtual instruction toward the required 181 days or 1,086 instructional hours as permitted by Oklahoma law and the Oklahoma State Department of Education (OSDE).

The purpose of this plan is to ensure uninterrupted learning opportunities when in-person learning is not possible. OKCPS aims to maintain instructional continuity by providing a structured process for delivering standards-aligned resources during circumstances such as severe weather, public health emergencies, or other safety concerns that temporarily prevent the use of school facilities. When implemented, virtual learning will maintain student engagement, uphold Oklahoma Academic Standards, and ensure equitable access to learning for all students.

Virtual learning days may be implemented when:

- The plan is approved by the State Superintendent,
- A state of emergency or proclamation has been issued by the Governor for a specific reason relating to school district operations; and,
- The OKCPS board of education approves the use of virtual learning consistent with this plan and state law.

Virtual learning days will allow students to continue meeting academic expectations while maintaining alignment with Oklahoma Academic Standards. Through this plan, OKCPS seeks to minimize learning loss, protect student and staff safety, and provide flexibility for continued instruction in rare instances when traditional school attendance is disrupted.

Governance and Approval

The Oklahoma City Public Schools Board of Education reviewed and approved this Virtual Instruction Plan on November 10, 2025, during a duly convened public meeting (see Board Meeting Agenda, and attestation by the Board Clerk.)

Oversight of this plan is assigned to the Superintendent and the Chief Academic Officer, Alisha Suffield, who are responsible for implementation, publication on the district website, and submission to the Oklahoma State Department of Education through the Accreditation Application.

In submitting this plan, the district affirms that Oklahoma City Public Schools will review and

update this Virtual Instruction Plan each school year to ensure compliance with 70 O.S. §1-109(J) and OSDE guidance.

Annual Review Timeline:

1. The plan will be reviewed and approved by the OKCPS Board of Education no later than September 30 each year.
2. The Superintendent will submit the plan to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction for approval by November 1.

Data Reporting Commitment:

In accordance with state law, OKCPS will provide the Oklahoma State Department of Education with an annual summary of the district's use of virtual instruction, including:

1. The dates and duration of virtual instructional days utilized;
2. The reason for each closure (e.g., Governor-declared emergency, inclement weather);
3. The number of students served; and
4. Technology access metrics, such as instructional application login timestamps and Clever portal usage statistics.

Evaluation Process:

After each virtual day, the district will collect feedback from teachers, students, and families to assess instructional effectiveness, technology performance, and equity of access. Findings will be used to refine instructional practices and improve the district's readiness for future implementation.

Instructional Delivery

Virtual Learning Platforms

OKCPS utilizes district-approved digital platforms, including Canvas, Seesaw and district-developed Choice Boards, to deliver virtual instruction, communicate with families, and ensure equitable access to learning materials for all students. These tools provide a consistent, secure, and user-friendly experience for both staff and families during virtual learning days.

Canvas: A secure, web-based learning management system (LMS), primarily in secondary schools. It provides a structured digital environment for managing courses, assignments, assessments, and communication between teachers and students.

Seesaw: Seesaw is a digital learning platform used by OKCPS for students in Pre-K through 4th grade, allowing them to create, share, and showcase their work using tools like drawing, photos, audio, and typing. Teachers use Seesaw to assign activities, provide feedback, and communicate with families, giving parents a transparent view of

their child's progress and classroom activities. It's designed to be intuitive for young learners, supporting both digital skill-building and family engagement in the learning process.

Choice Boards: Developed by district instructional teams, Choice Boards serve as a primary instructional resource for students and families during virtual learning days. Students will be provided access to grade-level boards and will be available on the OKCPS website. The boards provide standards-aligned activities across various grade-level appropriate subjects. Students select activities from each subject area, giving them voice and choice while reinforcing key skills and maintaining academic progress when in-person instruction is not possible. Schools are asked to make accommodations around those families who do not have internet access for whatever reasons. Physical copies of choice boards are issued before and after the impacted weather day, when requested.

During virtual days, instruction will be primarily asynchronous with synchronous office hours from 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. Teachers will share choice board assignments via Canvas, Talking Points, email or Seesaw by 8:30 a.m. Students will submit one ELA, one Math and one choice learning artifact (e.g., completed task, uploaded photo, or digital quiz).

Standards Alignment and Instructional Design

OKCPS virtual learning is designed to maintain instructional rigor, continuity, and alignment with the Oklahoma Academic Standards, OKCPS pacing guides and Standards Overviews.

Each grade-level Choice Board includes opportunities for practice, application, and enrichment in core content areas such as reading, writing, and mathematics. Some additional things your student can do would include:

- Elementary students are encouraged to engage in reading for 20 minutes daily, practice math facts, and respond to journal prompts that reinforce literacy and numeracy skills.
- Secondary students are encouraged to engage in independent reading, journal writing, and math computation practice using district-approved learning tools such as Lexia or other adaptive platforms.

Instructional Methods (Synchronous, Asynchronous, Hybrid, Paper-Based)

OKCPS will provide instruction during approved virtual learning days through a combination of asynchronous, synchronous, and paper-based learning options designed to ensure equitable access for all students.

Elementary Schools (PreK–5):

Teachers will share choice board activities with families via Canvas, Seesaw, email or talking points by 8:30 a.m. each virtual learning day.

- Students will complete one literacy, one math, and one choice task from the choice board aligned to the Oklahoma Academic Standards.
- Teachers will offer virtual office hours via Google Meet from 9:00–12:00 a.m. for student or family check-ins, and will be available for support through regular school hours via email or talking points.
- Students without or limited internet access will receive, upon request, printed Choice Boards ensuring equal opportunity to participate.

Secondary Schools (Grades 6–12):

- Teachers will share choice board assignments or short instructional videos with families via *Canvas, email or talking points* by 8:30 a.m. each virtual day.
- Teachers will offer virtual office hours via Google Meet from 9:00–12:00 p.m. for student or family check-ins, and will be available for support through regular school hours via email or talking points.
- Students will engage in asynchronous coursework, complete choice board activities, and submit digital evidence of learning through Canvas, or email. Students will also have access to additional skills aligned with digital platforms via clever. (i.e. Lexia, ST Math, IXL)

Hybrid and Paper-Based Options:

Students lacking internet access will have the option to request printed paper choice boards to access assignments that will be available upon request.

Verification of Participation:

Teachers will log participation through digital submissions, attendance check-ins, or verification of paper assignments returned within five (5) days of the virtual learning day. All learning activities will align to Oklahoma Academic Standards and district pacing guides.

Teacher Expectations and Support:

During virtual instructional days, OKCPS teachers ensure that learning stays consistent, structured, and accessible for all students. They use district-approved communication platforms to share daily expectations and clear instructions for accessing assignments and materials. Lessons and assignments are posted on the district website and shared with families by 8:30 AM on each virtual learning day. Teachers are available to provide academic support through email, or virtual meetings when requested by families. To maintain connection and continuity, teachers are available during regular school hours to communicate with students and families. This ongoing accessibility allows learners to receive timely feedback, personalized support, and the encouragement they need to stay engaged.

Staff Training and Preparedness

Oklahoma City Public Schools offers asynchronous professional learning for instructional staff to ensure readiness for delivering virtual instruction. Training will be provided to teachers and accessible through the district website.

- Canvas and Seesaw
- Sharing Choice Boards with families that are aligned with the Oklahoma Academic Standards;
- Communication with families through TalkingPoints;
- Maintaining IEP accommodations and related services during virtual learning; and
- Cybersecurity and data privacy expectations for digital learning environments

The district also maintains a Help Desk (405-587-HELP) to provide real-time technical assistance for staff during virtual learning days for families.

Help desk staff are trained to support students and families using district-approved tools and resources.

Supports and Related Services During Virtual Instruction

Students with Disabilities

Students who receive special education services through an Individualized Education Program (IEP) will continue to have access to support from their assigned special education teacher on virtual learning days. Families and students can connect with the teacher for assistance, clarification, or instructional support by email, TalkingPoints, or phone. Teachers will also maintain regular communication to ensure that students' IEP goals and accommodations are supported during virtual learning.

Some special education services, such as related services like speech or occupational therapy, may not occur on a virtual learning day due to the nature of service delivery. However, all special education services will continue to be provided in accordance with the student's IEP. If a scheduled service is unable to be delivered during a virtual day, that service will be rescheduled or made up consistent with OSDE and IDEA guidance to ensure students receive the services documented in their IEP.

Child Nutrition Services

Under current U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and OSDE guidelines, school meals provided through the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program may only be served to students who are physically present and participating in on-site instruction. The USDA does not permit schools to distribute or claim reimbursement for meals served to students who are not in person, except when a federal or state emergency declaration authorizes temporary non-congregate meal service.

If such an emergency is declared and non-congregate feeding is authorized, OKCPS Child Nutrition Services will coordinate meal distribution and communicate locations,

times, and eligibility requirements through the district's established communication channels, including automated calls, the district website, and social media.

Transportation for Technology Center Students

Transportation for students enrolled in partner technology center programs will continue to be provided whenever feasible, depending on the reason for the school closure. In the event of a severe weather closure, transportation may not be possible if road conditions are unsafe or if buses are unable to operate. When closures are due to other causes, such as utility disruptions, facility emergencies, or other Governor-declared events, transportation will be evaluated based on the operational status of both OKCPS and the partner technology centers.

Historically, technology centers serving OKCPS students have aligned with the district's schedule and typically close when OKCPS students are not attending in person. If the partner program remains open and transportation can be provided safely, the district will make reasonable efforts to continue service consistent with the student's regular transportation plan and district safety protocols.

Attendance, Accountability and Engagement

Per OKCPS Board Regulation F-03-R1, all students will be counted present when virtual learning is required due to school closure or emergency. Teachers maintain communication with students and families and monitor participation in learning activities to ensure continued engagement and support.

Student engagement will also be monitored during any synchronous instruction, if applicable.

Family Support and Communication

Families, staff, and students will be notified of virtual instructional days via:

- District message system (Talking Points, and SMS Messaging)
- District website: www.okcps.org
- Social media channels: Facebook, Instagram
- Traditional media (TV)
- Individual school communications (email, newsletters, school social media channels)

Notification of a virtual instructional day will be decided as early as possible, but no later than 5:30 a.m. on the day the approved virtual learning day is required. Teachers will be available to communicate with students and families throughout regular school hours, providing timely feedback, individualized support, and encouragement to help every student remain engaged and successful during virtual learning. Families or staff in need of technical assistance may contact the OKCPS IT Helpdesk at (405) 587-HELP for technology support during virtual learning days.

Virtual Needs Assessment

OKCPS annually conducts a Virtual Needs Assessment using the district enrollment process. As of September 2025, 76% of OKCPS families report home internet connectivity through family, school, or district-supported means. The district continues to monitor and address access gaps by distributing hotspots to First Choice Online Academy students and through community Wi-Fi partnerships.

Evaluation and Continuous Improvement

Feedback Collection

OKCPS will gather feedback from students, parents, and staff following each virtual instructional day to assess the effectiveness of instruction and identify areas for improvement. Teachers also submit brief reports summarizing student attendance, engagement, and instructional delivery, which help district leaders evaluate participation levels and refine future virtual learning practices.

Metrics for Review

To measure the effectiveness of virtual instructional days, OKCPS reviews key metrics such as student assignment completion rates, technology access and any reported connectivity issues. These data points help the district evaluate the overall success of virtual learning implementation and guide adjustments to improve equity, access, and instructional quality.

Plan Review

District leadership will analyze data collected after each virtual instructional day to identify trends, challenges, and best practices. Findings from these reviews will inform adjustments to instructional procedures and support for future Virtual instruction days. The Virtual Instruction Plan will be reviewed and updated on an annual basis, with any revisions presented to the Board of Education for approval prior to submission to the Oklahoma State Department of Education.

Assurances and Signatures

Superintendent Assurance Statement:

I, Jamie C. Polk, hereby certify that this Virtual Instruction Plan has been approved by the Oklahoma City Public Schools Board of Education and complies with the requirements set forth in 70 O.S. § 1-109(J) and the Oklahoma State Department of Education's Virtual Instruction Plan guidance.

Signature of the Superintendent

Date