

Prepared by Dr. Jeffrey Alstadt

SES 44 E-Learning/Inclement Weather Plan

To update the Board of Education and community on the protocols surrounding the plans and options for Inclement Weather Days. While we all hope that this winter does not bring any severe weather, it is important to be reminded of the decision process and plans if severe weather occurs.

Decision Process: The assessment of weather conditions will begin the day before, if possible, with student and staff safety as the number one priority. The variables the District considers include the following:

- Local weather forecasts
- Road conditions
- Temperature and Wind Chill
- The availability of drivers and buses
- Safety components (e.g. power, furnace, heat, water, phone) are functioning properly
- Communication/collaboration with Streator High School and the feeder schools

District Communication Process: We strive to notify families of closure as soon as possible. If a decision can be made the day before a closure, communication will be sent no later than 9:30 p.m. In the event of a day of closure, a communication will ideally be sent between 5:00 and 6:30 a.m. Setting these time parameters eliminates the need for families to check emails overnight while still allowing enough time to make childcare arrangements when necessary.

- Communication will be sent to the contact information on file for families and staff via email and phone. Phone calls will be made to families and staff only in the event that schools are closed.
 - Phone calls will not be made when a decision is still in progress or the decision has been made that school will be open.
 - Closure information will also be posted on the District website and Facebook pages.
 - Parents will be notified of E-Learning days through e-mail, the call notification system, and social media. A communication explaining the process will be sent out yearly.
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E-Learning Plan Overview

Streator Elementary School District #44 (SES #44) will use E-Learning as part of its Distance Learning plan on emergency days. The district meets the legal requirements to use E-Learning days, which allow students to access learning opportunities from remote locations using digital tools. All students have access to a district-managed Chromebook to facilitate this. The district will ensure that the needs of all students are met, including those in special education and English language learners.

Legal Requirements Per Section 10-20.56 of the School Code, school districts may use "eLearning days" in place of emergency days after holding a public hearing and passing a formal resolution.

- SES #44 held the public hearing on October 17, 2023.
- The Board of Education will need to readopt the resolution at the board meeting in October of 2026.

General E-Learning Day Procedures

Student Attendance

- Students are required to connect online with their teachers for attendance by 9:00 AM.
- For students in grades K-4, a parent or older sibling can report the student as present.
- Teachers are responsible for taking attendance through a specified communication tool. Homeroom (PK-4) or advisory (5-8) teachers will record student attendance in Skyward by 10:00 AM.

Instruction and Assignments

- Teachers will provide meaningful lessons online or in a paper/pencil format. Lessons and synchronous instruction will begin by 9:00 AM.
- Lessons will integrate as seamlessly as possible with regular classroom instruction and utilize familiar digital tools.
- The expected workload for students is approximately 30 minutes per class for junior high students and 15 minutes per class for elementary students.
- E-learning assignments are treated like any other in-class assignment and are expected to be completed. Students will have two days following the E-learning day to turn in their work.

Accommodations

- Students will not be penalized for being without internet access.
- Students can be supplied with paper and pencil work, sent home prior to an E-Learning day.
- If a hotspot is needed, families should contact the general education teacher, who will then contact the technology department.

School and Grade-Level Specific Plans

Northlawn Junior High School (NJHS)

- Teachers will provide lessons online or in a paper/pencil format using a technology-based platform for instruction.
- Lessons will be sent out electronically by 9:00 AM.
- Teachers will be available via email, Google Suite, or another approved platform from 8:30 AM to 2:00 PM, excluding their duty-free lunch.

Centennial/Kimes Elementary Schools

- Teachers will provide lessons online or in a paper/pencil format and may use a technology-based platform for instruction.
- Lessons will be sent out electronically by 9:00 AM. Lessons should cover the subject areas normally taught during class sessions.
- Teachers will be available via email, Google Suite, or another approved platform from 8:30 AM to 2:00 PM, excluding their duty-free lunch.

Pre-K through 4th Grade

- When appropriate, teachers may send home lessons and activities the day before an E-Learning Day.
- If multiple E-Learning days are used, additional instructions may be sent to parents electronically by 9:00 AM.

Support for Diverse Learners

Students with IEPs

- Students with an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) will follow lessons provided by their classroom teachers, which will be modified by their caseworkers online or via hard copies.
- All lessons will be appropriate and follow the student's IEP guidelines. Case managers will include any necessary E-Learning accommodations in the student's IEP.
- Accommodations for students without internet access will be addressed individually.
- Students receiving services will be provided the same accommodations and modifications outlined in their plans.

Staff Expectations

Certified Staff

- Certified staff must be available electronically from 8:30 AM to 2:00 PM, excluding their duty-free lunch.
- They can work from home or at the school if travel is safe.
- Teachers and staff are expected to be available to answer student questions, similar to in-person learning.

Special Education, Title, Multi-Language, and Speech Teachers

- These teachers will collaborate with general education staff to modify materials for home-based learning.
- They will contact families to determine the best methods to provide help during assigned work times via approved platforms like email or Google Suite.
- These teachers are expected to follow the same availability guidelines as other certified staff.

Music, Art, PE, and Technology Teachers (K-5)

- E-learning assignments for these content areas should be posted by 9:00 AM.
- Students are expected to complete assignments for the content area they were scheduled to have that day.
- These teachers follow the same availability guidelines as other certified staff.

Educational Support Personnel (ESP)

- Assignments for ESP staff may vary based on their duties.
- Administrative assistants can work on-site or from home with a schedule established by the building principal.
- Options will be made available for any employee who wishes to work on-site, provided it is safe and a plan is approved by their supervisor.

Administrative Recommendation: No recommendation at this time. Informational report only.