

AMI (Alternative Methods of Instruction)

As per Arkansas Code Annotated § 6-10-127 a district may apply for up to 10 days of AMI for the use of alternative methods of instruction, including [remote] learning, on days when the district is closed due to exceptional or emergency circumstances such as:

- contagious disease outbreak
- inclement weather
- other acts of God
- utility outage

AMI Requirements

Please complete the following requirements with complete responses:	District Response:
<p>Number of AMI days requested by the district. (Please note that all AMI days utilized must be noted in eSchool. Sporting events, funerals, other school events, lack of substitutes, or lack of bus drivers do not qualify as exceptional circumstances.)</p>	<p>The Fort Smith Public School district would like to request 10 days of AMI for the 2021-22 school year.</p>
<p>Provide a description of the AMI assignments and materials used at each school within the district to effectively facilitate teaching and support learning for the benefit of the students. Please include information if the district will utilize technology-based assignments or paper packets. (AMI packets must be available on-line or have been sent home prior to the designation of an AMI day)</p>	<p>When addressing the need for an Alternative Methods of Instruction (AMI) day, the district superintendent will determine if the day is needed and if it will support student learning, and then it will be allocated. The Superintendent will not use an AMI day if learning can not continue. AMI will be used if teachers are accessible to students using phone, email, Zoom, the Schoology Learning Management System, or other virtual communication platforms.</p> <p>The district is a 1:1 technology district. The district has installed wifi access points in the parking lots of every school campus. In addition, individual hotspots for students are available for those who need it.</p> <p>Each 3-12 student in the district is assigned a device for their use during the school year. PK-2 students will have access to a device and access to a device to take home during AMI days. Students regularly communicate with one another and</p>

	<p>their teacher(s) through their school-assigned email address.</p> <p>A team of district teachers and curriculum specialists created lessons for each of the district Essential Standards in literacy, mathematics, science and social studies. These lessons were designed to be accessed on-line using Schoology, the district's K-12 district Learning Management System (LMS).</p> <p>Students in grades K - 12, will be provided assignments asynchronously using Schoology Learning Management System. Teachers will provide additional support in synchronous virtual class meetings, response to intervention (RTI), and enrichment. Small group meetings or interventions may be provided if there is a safe alternative to meet those needs.</p> <p>During the AMI days, teachers will provide support during the regular school day via email, Schoology Learning Management System or ZOOM video conferencing to respond and support students or parents/guardians who may need assistance.</p>
<p>Describe how student attendance will be determined for an approved AMI day. (All attendance should be determined and reported in eSchool within 5 days of the AMI day.) May include a link (URL) to the attendance policy for digital learning students if applicable to all students during AMI days.</p>	<p>AMI days will be communicated to all stakeholders via local news media, social media, building websites, and the district website.</p> <p>For all students in grades K-12, attendance will be determined based on the work submitted within the Schoology Learning Management System. Teachers will assess the work to determine if the student completed the work electronically. All assignments will be graded within five days of the last declared AMI day to determine a student's attendance status for each AMI day.</p> <p>The grade a student earns for the AMI day will not determine attendance. Attendance will be based on the submission of</p>

	<p>the assignments. An adjustment may be made to meet an individual student based on their IEP, 504, or LPAC plan.</p> <p>Any extenuating circumstances that a family has during AMI days, should be addressed with a building administrator. The administrator should address the needs of the student individually.</p>
<p>1.) Describe how the district will ensure implementation of Individual Education Programs (IEPs) for students with disabilities on AMI days. Include how the district will involve the special education teacher in the provision of special education services during the AMI day to meet the individual needs of each student. 2.)</p>	<p>The IEP team develops a plan that will address how each student will be best served during remote learning through specific accommodations/ modifications, service frequency, service delivery methods (ZOOM, Schoology Learning Management System, Teachtown, Unique Learning Systems, home packets, etc.). Academic and behavioral goals and transition needs that are specific to the student will also be provided.</p> <p>Teachers will have specific hours for student/parent communication. Students will be able to ask any specific classwork questions or to get help with technology issues. The contingency plan can be used for any situation that would make in-person learning difficult or impossible.</p> <p>Additionally, the district has blended/remote lessons for students with special needs that take the Dynamics Learning Model (DLM) assessment. These were created to address visual arts, music, health & PE, and Computer Science.</p> <p>Specifically for OT/PT/Speech:</p> <p>Families will need to support and help their remote child with any virtual therapy such as physical or occupational therapy if so identified in the students IEP or students contingency plan. An example would be, the physical therapists would create a set of exercises for a student to do. The therapists would go over them with the learning coach (parents/guardians/family members) and these individuals would help the student do the exercises. This would be true for the other therapies identified in a student's IEP. Additionally, OT/PT/SLP will also engage families in therapy using the phone if the internet is</p>

<p>Describe how accommodations and related services will be provided.</p>	<p>not working. The document will be available in a hard copy in case of power outages or loss of internet connectivity.</p> <p>GT, 504, ESL, and special education students will receive accommodations related to their related services.</p> <p>Teachers will provide online activities for students. During AMI days, students will complete the work provided. Teachers will be available via email, Schoology Learning Management System, or ZOOM video conferencing. Teachers will provide virtual hours of the regular school day during the AMI day to respond and assist any students or parents/guardians who may need assistance.</p> <p>Students may also have their social-emotional needs met in a small group, one-on-one, or a large group in a virtual setting or an individual phone call with their teacher.</p>
<p>Please include the link (URL) to the webpage or social media where information will be posted to announce the date of the AMI day and reason for utilizing the AMI day - (this should match the AMI dates entered into eSchool). (Example: December 1 will be an AMI day due to inclement weather)</p>	<p>An AMI day will be announced via all available media outlets, and students and parents/guardians will be alerted of the expectation of work requirements. The district will announce an AMI day on the FSPS Web Page. It will also go out on all school social media pages</p> <p>Building principals and teachers will use their social media platforms to announce the AMI day to their communities. Teachers will also send group emails to students to notify them of the work that has been posted for them to complete.</p> <p>District communication through text, email, media and social media will be used to ensure that a point of contact is made with parents/guardians to make them aware of the transition to an AMI day and the instruction that will take place at home.</p>